



The International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg

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Dear partners and friends in the faith,

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Blessed Epiphany! As the days are once again getting longer, it brings this season of light into focus. Our uncreated, yet creating God, came into this dark world as the promised Christ after the Fall into sin, and shines so brightly that death cannot even snuff Him out! All of our human illnesses, sadness, and uncertainties will never overcome Jesus, the Light of the World, who shares this illumination with us in His Word, Body and Blood, and through Baptism. Talk about a bright outlook – that we can in turn share this Light with our neighbors!

As the snow was falling over Christmas break, the dust from this busy and exciting 500th Reformation year was also settling on a few big questions I had. Now that I have had some light shed on them, I would like to share with you! As I wrote in my newsletter this past summer, I was blessed to become engaged to Christian Straeuli in July. You can imagine there was quite a bit to figure out, and scarcely a minute to spare from all of the festivities in Wittenberg! However, I promised to keep you updated when I knew what my engagement would mean for the future of my missionary service.

The recent clarification brings me to share with you that I will be concluding my missionary service in Wittenberg this spring. Although my departure is sooner than I would have thought when I began this journey to serve in Wittenberg, I have full confidence in God's plan and His perfect timing. The predominant reason for my human timing is that Christian is currently studying for his final seminary exams in Oberursel, Germany. Lord-willing, he will begin a vicarage upon graduation, and then be ordained into the Holy Ministry. Through much prayer and discussion, we have decided that after our wedding this June, we will embark on this next phase of life together in his home country of South Africa. I ask you for your understanding and prayers, as my primary vocation as a child of God changes to that of wife, and in yet another new country.

Although I will no longer be serving as the Managing Director of the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg, the Lord has revealed a very capable successor to continue the mission of the Old Latin School. Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Weber (Email: kppwweber@gmail.com), from our LC-MS partner church in South Africa will be taking my place when I depart at the end of April. As a former bishop of the Lutheran Church of South Africa and rector of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, he brings ample pastoral and administrative experience to table – and in his mother tongue, German, no less! I have full confidence that Dr. Weber's outgoing personality, conviction in and eagerness to confess the Gospel, and academic background will be bountiful gifts to the ILSW and Old Latin School, as it continues to welcome and witness to those in Wittenberg.

Please pray for Dr. Weber and his wife, Angelika, as they transition not only careers, but also hemispheres, to serve the Lord in Wittenberg. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you to give strong prayerful consideration to switching your financial support from me to Dr. Weber. As my successor, he will have the same charges as I have, which you have financially supported me to be able to do. Therefore,

as Dr. Weber raises his funds, I ask you to keep in mind that I have been only a small part in God's greater plan for Wittenberg. Through the Old Latin School, its presence, worship services, and conferences, I have had the opportunity to meet and share God's love with neighbors here in town and people from around the globe. I know Dr. Weber will continue and build on this, and as he is a pastor, I am excited for him to regularly preach the Word of God in our Chapel!

I want to thank you *heartily* for your steadfast support in this journey over the past three years. You have taught me so much about Christian charity, generosity, trust, stewardship, and more. I cherish the emails, cards, and even personal visits to Germany I have received from so many of you! As if it were just last month, my initial support raising visits stick in my memory as prime examples of how to share Christ's love by welcoming a stranger into my midst, as you did to me. Thank you for allowing me to serve the Lord with you, and for providing the earthly means for me to do so. During difficult times, I always knew I had a network of prayer supporting me, and in the joyous times such as this, I also know I have my brothers and sisters in Christ rejoicing with me. May God bless you in this new year!

With lasting gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin R. Lange". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kristin R. Lange