



Depending On God

Richard Ondicho's Newsletter 5/2021 – 24.11.2021

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. (Psalm 16:1 NRSV)

Here it is, nearly the end of 2021. I pray you are all doing well and feeling healthy. I thank God for the few days we've had together this year. My family and I have been fine although lately there has been flu but we have recovered well.

“With faith in the Triune God, the International Lutheran Church proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments.” In our life together as a Christian congregation, we provide a center for members and community to worship and pray; to meet and learn in our weekly Bible studies in doing so we nourished and strengthened; to rest and be comforted; to serve; and to go forth and witness and serve our neighbour through the prayerful stewardship of our resources.

Here we are in the Month of November 2021. My heart is heavy these days because of all the things we have had to endure these past months. We are still dealing with this COVID-19 virus. Besides the fact that most people in Finland have had two doses of vaccines but still there is a reasonable number of people who believe in conspiracy theory that tends to convince people that there is evil in the vaccines. If that is true, are malaria, cancer, and polio also illusions? Covid-19 has claimed many lives and it is only safe to take the vaccine and still use masks and continue to be careful. I pray God will continue to watch over us and keep us healthy and safe from the effects of this virus. God's love is never failing, even when times are uncertain.

By the grace of God our Sunday school is functional again. Our friends Lauri and Paula Heikkila have been in charge, and I humbly welcome more people to volunteer so that we don't exhaust these two people. We have now over 10 children attending every Sunday while others have not resumed ever since the pandemic began in 2020. Having children in worship is an inherent paradox. If we take Jesus' words seriously, our faith demands that we welcome children in our midst just as we would welcome Jesus.

We in the international Congregation have much to be thankful for and more especially that we have continued gathering every Sunday for the Divine services. We are abundantly given life's necessities by the God who loves all beyond compare. We have food, family, friends, and roofs over our heads. I am truly grateful for each of you and give thanks to God for you.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Please continue to uphold us in your prayers that those who are in the baptism class will continue to commit and learn and decide if they want to be baptized. Also, pray for those who have been attending immigration or court asylum interviews that soon they would hear good news about their permits.

May you be blessed every day by the care and tenderness of our God who loves us so much that God sent His Holy Son to the world.



We gather under this cross ever Biblestudy to remember that Jesus Christ is the center of our faith.

Blessed Advent Sunday to all of you!

In Christ I remain His servant and yours.

Richard Ondicho

Would you like to participate in mission work? If you want to support Richard Ondicho's work, you can choose an amount to Leaf's donation bank account: IBAN: FI13 8000 1500 7791 95 BIC: DABAFIHH.

- Use your personal reference number, so that your support will automatically be shown in your local congregation's mission support total or write into the transaction message field "Richard Ondichon rengas" + your home congregation.
- You can find further information about donating monthly from <https://www.taivaallinenlahja.fi/kuukausilahjoittaminen> or from Leea Gröhn, leea.grohn@sley.fi / 09 2513 9228.
- For a personal reference number please contact Anna-Liisa Markkula, anna-liisa.markkula@sley.fi / +358 50 321 8614.

Your support enables to share the Gospel to those who do not know Christ yet.

Thank you for your support! May God bless your gift.

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