

SERVING THE LORD IN

K-TOWN, GERMANY

NEWS FROM THE JENSEN FAMILY



August 2022

Landstuhl, Germany

August 27, 2022

Dear friends,

The most exciting news I have to report since last writing is the safe return of Oksana to the United States with her mother. You may recall from previous newsletters that Oksana, who was born in Ukraine, flew from Michigan to Poland in the spring to pick up her elderly mother. You can read Oksana's story in KELC's July newsletter, pp. 6–8. With the help of funding from the Missouri Synod, our congregation supported Oksana and her mother by arranging lodging at the seminary in Oberursel until Oksana's mother could receive a visa to move to the United States. With one complication after another in the visa application process, the situation was beginning to look hopeless, until all of a sudden, our prayers were answered. Oksana and her mother returned to Michigan on July 19th.

At the end of July, we attended the Corpus Christi conference in Gothenburg, Sweden. Corpus Christi is a youth conference for Lutherans from all over Europe (and some from the United States as well!). We attended with the German contingent. After church on Sunday, we drove from Kaiserslautern to a halfway point in northern Germany, taking a German student and a South African student along with us. We were nervous about driving the entire 14 hours to Sweden with four adults and a baby in a car with no air conditioning, but it worked out well! The German student was able to occupy Agatha when she wasn't sleeping. Dr. David Preus, LCMS missionary to Romania, was the plenary speaker at the conference. We especially enjoyed meeting Scandinavian friends, including former exchange students to the Ft. Wayne seminary. On our way home, we stayed a few nights with Emma's great-uncle in Copenhagen, Denmark.

We did run into a few car issues on the trip. During the conference, we loaned the car to transport hymnals and instruments around town. On the last night of the conference, I received a message that the key had broken in the door. So, on the final day of the conference, I went all over town looking for a locksmith who could replicate the broken key. We were so thankful to find one and get on the road on time. And then, just as we were leaving town, the car suddenly became really noisy. The muffler had detached from the exhaust system! We were able to make it to Copenhagen, where Emma's great-uncle helped me tie it up with wire to keep it from hanging too low to the ground, but we still had a noisy trek back to Germany. We're just thankful we were safe and could still get around.

In the middle of August, I was asked to speak at the local clergy meet up, an opportunity for all the English-speaking pastors in the area to come together once a month. I presented on Chaplain Henry Gerecke, the LCMS chaplain to the major Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg trial. The presentation was basically a book review of Tim Townsend's *Mission at Nuremberg*. I plan on working my notes into a review to publish in the September issue of our church newsletter, *The Kaiserslautern Lutheran*. The presentation was well-received, and I think everyone took to heart the main lesson: Jesus' death on the cross is for all sins of all people, even the worst of the worst. It was moving to retell the stories of repentant sinners returning to the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the middle of August, we also attended the LCMS Eurasia regional missionary retreat in Greece. Christian Boehlke, the interim director of the Office of International Mission, was able to stay with us a few days on his way there. We flew to Thessaloniki, Greece, with Pastor Schuschke from Trinity, Frankfurt, and a couple other LCMS men coming in from St. Louis. It was nice to have so much help carrying the playpen, the car seat, and everything else that comes with a baby while traveling. Dr. Just, one of my professors from Ft. Wayne, spoke about planting churches in the first century. How fascinating to hear that topic in a place where the Apostle Paul traveled and planted churches himself. We enjoyed catching up with other missionaries in the region and swimming in the hotel pool and especially in the Aegean Sea. The retreat was a perfect mix of worshiping together, learning, and relaxing. We would love to make it back to that area to see all the historical sites, including Berea and Philippi. I also can't forget to mention the beautiful view of Mount Olympus from our hotel room. I spent a lot of time just staring at it.

Another highlight of August was the installation of Rev. Eberhard Ramme as pastor of St. Michaelis, the congregation of our German partner church (SELK), where we hold our services. I was honored to be asked to participate in the installation as well as to bring greetings from KELC. I emphasized how together we can proclaim the Gospel to everyone in this area, St. Michaelis to the Germans and KELC to the English-speakers. As Peter went to the Jews and Paul to the Gentiles, Pastor Ramme will focus on the Germans, and I'll focus on the English-speakers. Pastor Ramme and I plan on meeting together regularly for mutual conversation and encouragement. It's a joy to have such a close relationship with our German partner church.

Besides all that, church life has been running fairly normally. We continue holding Divine Service, Bible study, and catechesis every Sunday and a study of the Lutheran Confessions every Wednesday evening. At Bible study we are wrapping up Ephesians. Then we'll start an overview of the Old Testament. In the fall, our goal for catechesis will be to focus on those interested in confirmation. We have a handful of middle-school aged students ready to begin. During our Wednesday evening class, we just finished the Formula of Concord, Article VIII, on the Person of Christ. At Divine Service we also continue praying for other congregations that support military installations. We include three or four congregations in the Prayer of the Church and then I contact the pastors of those congregations throughout the week. We've made some really great contacts this way. Besides supporting those who do similar work, one of our goals is to build relationships with other congregations where our members might end up some day, and vice versa.

And on that note, we also thank you all for your continued support of our work in and around Kaiserslautern, Germany. We praise the LORD for how He is continuing to work here in His Word and Sacraments. Please continue praying that we might find open doors to the military community, as well as to all the English-speakers in this region.

Jesus be with you,

Rev. Nathaniel Jensen

The Jensen Family





The German contingent at the Corpus Christi conference



Pastor Ramme's installation at St. Michaelis



To support the LCMS through the work of *Rev. Nathaniel and Emma Jensen*, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Jensen-Germany Support." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/jensen.

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