

SERVING THE LORD IN

K-TOWN, GERMANY

NEWS FROM THE JENSEN FAMILY



October 2021

Henschtal, Germany

October 11, 2021

Dear friends,

As some of you may already know, Emma and I arrived safely in Germany on October 7. We are currently in our mandatory 5–10-day quarantine at the home of a member of Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) in Kaiserslautern [“K-Town”], Germany. Tomorrow is day 5, so we should be able to “test out” of our quarantine. We plan on running errands around town, including finding our own housing, getting our German cell phones and bank account in order, and so forth. This Sunday, October 17, I should be installed as pastor of KELC at 3 p.m. If you would like you can watch online, either on the KELC Facebook or YouTube page. The director of LCMS Eurasia, Rev. Krikava, and the vacancy pastor of KELC, Rev. Tiews, will be in attendance. Other LCMS missionaries in the region and pastors from our partner churches in Germany and France have been invited as well.

It certainly has been an exciting few months! April 27th was Call Day at the Fort Wayne seminary, where I received a call through the Office of International Mission to serve in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Five days later on May 1, Emma and I were married at St. John Lutheran Church in Amelith, near Bay City, Mich. Emma was serving as organist and music director there, and we enjoyed our first two months of married life in the parsonage. At the end of June, we moved into my grandmother’s basement in St. Louis for new missionary orientation at the International Center. On July 25th I was ordained at my home church, Peace Lutheran, in St. Louis.

Over the rest of the summer, we made two trips west to present on our work, meet with supporters, and visit family and friends. In many ways it was also our “Good-bye America tour.” We presented at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa where God does so much to support LCMS missionaries. We then continued to the Kansas City area and presented at St. Paul’s, Leavenworth, where dear friends from my vicarage at KELC, the Hester family, are now members. We also visited congregations in Colorado and Utah. Our final stop was Faith in St. Robert, Mo. Both St. Paul’s, Leavenworth and Faith, St. Robert are major supporters of military operations in their areas. Some of our goals in traveling were to meet with military members, who may end up stationed in our area, and to foster ongoing relationships with military-friendly congregations in the U.S. We want our LCMS military members to know there is a confessional, liturgical, English-speaking congregation for them should they ever be stationed near Ramstein Air Base. We also want the members of KELC to be aware of congregations that could potentially become their new church homes when they move back to the States.

A highlight of our first trip was having breakfast with Rev. Jim Hoke in Lincoln, Neb. He was pastor at KELC from 1989–2003 and filled us in on so much of the early history of the congregation. It just so happened that one of our supporters through Mission Central was sitting in the booth next to us. What a great “coincidence”!

On our second trip, we drove down through Texas and over to New Mexico and Arizona, where most of Emma's family hails from. Emma's immediate family drove down from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and we enjoyed a week at Emma's grandmother's home near Tucson, Ariz. while also presenting at LCMS churches in the area. Next, we went on to northern Idaho to stay with LCMS Eurasia missionary Dr. John Bombaro and his family. We also visited with the Ashers in Hutchinson, Minn. Pastor Asher was my vicarage supervisor at KELC and served as pastor there from 2017–2020.

It was on our second trip west that everything began coming together for our departure, despite continued concerns over coronavirus restrictions. By the time we arrived home in St. Louis, our tickets were purchased, and we had two weeks to tie up some loose ends and say our goodbyes. I also had the honor of preaching at my home parish. We made preparations to have some of our books and household goods shipped over.

Thank you to all of our family, friends, and supporters for your love and generosity. So many of you housed us, fed us, and encouraged us in this time of major life transitions. We thank God for you! It was such a privilege to see so many LCMS congregations and meet so many faithful Christians who are interested in our work in the largest community of Americans outside of the United States—Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Please continue to pray for us and the work God has given us to do in this place. Please pray for a smooth transition into this new role in a new environment. Pray for the members of KELC—past, present, and future—that the Lord would work through them to bring others to God's saving power in His Word and Sacraments. And finally, the Lord has also blessed us with a daughter! She is due to arrive on February 9th, so please keep both mother and daughter in your prayers, that they may safely come to the time of birth and that by water and the Word our daughter may be brought to new birth in Christ.

Jesus be with you,

Rev. Nathaniel Jensen

Pastor and Mrs. Nathaniel S. Jensen



Rev. McMiller, Pres. Harrison, and Dr. Just with the three new missionaries called from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.



With Aaron Tisdale and the Hester family, former members of KELC who came to St. Louis for my ordination.



Visiting the Bombaros in northern Idaho.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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.