



Landstuhl, Germany
February 16, 2022

Dear friends,

Since last writing on December 13, we wrapped up Advent, celebrated Christmas, and rang in the new year. One of the joys of the season was my first baptism! Our dear American friends living in Oberursel, Luke and Ehryn Otten, came down to Kaiserslautern for the baptism of their newborn son, Wilhelm Hendrik Otten. Emma and I are the godparents. After Christmas, Emma and I were able to visit the Ottens in Oberursel, where Luke is an exchange student at our partner church's seminary. We also visited some of our members stationed in nearby Wiesbaden.

On Christmas Eve, I had the honor of preaching in German and leading the service for our partner church congregation, St. Michaelis (SELK). Since its founding in 1985, Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church has been meeting at St. Michaelis, and we cherish this partnership. After the German service, we had an English service of Lessons and Carols. Congregants assisted with the Scripture readings and special music, and the children sang and played handbells. We ended by singing Silent Night in German and English by candlelight. Though in the moment everything seemed hectic and last-minute trying to put all the little details in place (trying to find candles, figuring out how to dim the lights, etc.), afterwards everyone commented how beautiful the service was. Hopefully now we know a little better for next year.

When Pastor Christian Tiews (now a missionary among refugees in northern Germany) was filling the vacancy in Kaiserslautern until our arrival, he began a weekly study of the Lutheran Confessions. In January we started that study up again and have been meeting regularly, both online and in-person at a member's home, to discuss the Formula of Concord. We started on Article VII on the Lord's Supper simply because that is what our members were most interested in learning about first. We read and discuss paragraph by paragraph and will alternate back and forth between the Epitome and the Solid Declaration. We are still on Article VII, so we'll see how long it takes us to get through the entire Formula!

Our weekly catechesis also continues with a study of the Sacraments. Right now, we are finishing up Holy Baptism. We meet every Sunday after Divine Service and Bible Class, except on holiday weekends. We plan on continuing the class throughout the year for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of Christian doctrine. We also anticipate several confirmation students next year. Their confirmation instruction will include attendance at catechesis with additional writing assignments and memory work, as well as preparation for confirmation questioning in front of the congregation. Our goal with combining catechesis and confirmation instruction is to emphasize that these classes are not like school, where you pass and graduate. The goal is to become a lifelong student of God's Word. The older members attending catechesis will serve as models and mentors for the confirmation students.

Every month, Emma and I look forward to a clergy/clergy wives meet-up with other local English-speaking pastors of various Christian denominations. We meet at Rhema cafe, just down the hill from us in downtown Landstuhl. The cafe houses the Kaiserslautern Military Resiliency Center, a support to soldiers in need of spiritual counsel. It is run by a minister and his wife and in many ways operates as a church. Various religious groups meet there, from Russian Germans and youth groups to Alcoholics Anonymous, a seminary, etc. KELC supports the work of Rhema cafe and vice versa. We were able to meet at Rhema for a potluck/Bible Study in January and plan on using the coffee shop as our meeting place for the Board of Elders beginning this month.

The most exciting event since last writing, of course, was the birth and baptism of our daughter, Agatha Christiana Jensen. Agatha was born on February 3rd at the local German hospital in Landstuhl. Thankfully the hospital is only a five-minute drive from our house, which took away some of the stress. Agatha was born at 11:40 and was 18.9 in. long and weighed 6 lbs. 15oz. When her head popped out and I saw her for the first time I cried and cried for joy! Emma and Agatha were able to come home the following day. We are so thankful to members of the congregation who organized a meal train and brought us food for the week and a half after the birth. I don't know how I would have managed without that help!

On February 13, I had the honor of baptizing Agatha at KELC. The godparents are Luke and Ehryn Otten. I often tell people the story about the baptismal vessels, which were brought by members of the German congregation fleeing the Russians at the end of World War II. Most of the older members of St. Michaelis came from the eastern German provinces (what is today Poland) and settled in Kaiserslautern, where they later established a Lutheran Church. The baptismal vessels are a reminder to them of where they came from. We are so thankful that the LORD preserved Agatha until she could safely be brought to the waters of Holy Baptism!

Some postpartum complications resulted in a minor surgery for Emma this past week. At the last minute, we realized I would have to watch Agatha all by myself. Our congregational president came over to help me learn how to feed with a bottle, burp the baby, and so forth. It was trial by fire! Agatha and I thank God Emma came through the surgery safely and could rejoin us later that afternoon.

The COVID restrictions in Germany are beginning to loosen, and we hope for a return to more normalcy this spring and summer. Please continue praying for our family and our congregation. We appreciate everything you do for us and our work among U.S. military personnel in Germany.

Jesus be with you,

Rev. Nathaniel Jensen

The Jensen Family



Agatha Christiana Jensen



German Christmas Eve Service



Agatha's Baptism



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](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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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