

SERVING THE LORD IN

K-TOWN, GERMANY

NEWS FROM THE JENSEN FAMILY



June 2022

Landstuhl, Germany

June 27, 2022

Dear friends,

Greetings from Germany! Since last writing, Emma, Agatha, and I made a day trip to Frankfurt to apply for Agatha's passport and certificate of birth abroad at the U.S. embassy. As part of our trip to Frankfurt, we decided to go to nearby Oberursel to visit Oksana and her mother Nina, the Ukrainians we are supporting with funding from the LCMS. Oksana flew to Poland in February to pick up her mother at the border. They have been in Oberursel since the end of March trying to apply for a visa for Nina to come to the United States. Oksana invited us over for dinner. What a wonderful surprise that the other Ukrainian refugees living in Oberursel joined us! A gentleman sitting next to me was an airline pilot from Egypt but married to a Ukrainian. As a Muslim, he was curious about Christianity in Germany and the United States. I was able to answer some of his questions and gave him a Bible as well. We pray the Lord will continue working in his life!

On Ascension Day (5/26) we had Divine Service at church. We had members, guests, and visitors present from India, Mexico, the United States, Germany, New Zealand, and England. I will never forget the feeling of having so many nationalities represented. What a wonderful preparation for Pentecost! As part of our Ascension Day festivities, we had an ice cream social after church. But we forgot that Ascension Day is also Father's Day in Germany and a federal holiday. All the grocery stores were closed, which we didn't realize until we were trying to pick up ice cream on our way to church! I decided to stop by the gas station and pick up some individually wrapped ice creams, but I knew that wouldn't be enough. We finally reached out to a dear member, who came through for us and was able to pick up more than enough ice cream from the U. S. commissary!

On Exaudi Sunday (5/29) and Pentecost Sunday (6/5) I filled in for our nearest LCMS missionary, Pastor Gary Schuschke at Trinity, Frankfurt. During the closing hymn at KELC I had to rush out to the car to make the 1 hour and 15 minute commute up to Frankfurt. Thankfully on Sunday there's not much traffic. On the second trip I was able to take Emma, Agatha, and my mom (visiting for two weeks) along, so we made a little road trip out of it. After lunch with members of Trinity, we were able to see Lorsch Abbey on our way home. It was a joy to meet members of Trinity, Frankfurt, but I really missed coffee hour, Bible Study, and Catechesis at KELC.

At the beginning of June, our congregation had the honor and privilege of providing dinner for about 45 Ukrainian refugees in our area at Rhema Cafe. I was able to speak a bit before dinner started, offering spiritual counsel should anyone need it. A Ukrainian translated for me as I prayed Luther's mealtime prayer. What a joy to get to know some of the Ukrainians the Lord has brought to this area! The next week we had our local clergy meet-up and heard from the refugees. It was moving to hear their stories of struggle for survival. A Ukrainian woman said they don't see themselves as refugees so much as missionaries. She cited Luke 9:3: "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics." These people had to leave their homeland with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Yet they don't

see themselves as victims; they see themselves as missionaries to a western Europe shrouded in spiritual darkness.

A few months ago, I heard from Pastor Garry Heintz, a Canadian pastor in the Synod of France, who had been contacted by a Missouri Synod woman who has lived in Switzerland for thirty-five years. We were going to be traveling with some friends to Switzerland at the end of June, so I got her information and arranged a visit. Emma, Agatha, and I planned to join her and her family for dinner and discuss possibilities for ongoing pastoral care. When we were about halfway between our accommodations and our destination, a hailstorm the likes of which I have never seen came out of nowhere. I pulled off the road and under a tree at an abandoned property. The hail was larger than golf balls and it felt like it just kept coming! Emma crawled in the back seat to be with Agatha. We were fully expecting windows to break. After the storm calmed a bit I kept driving into town. The hail was all over the streets and I must have missed the curb. We ended up with two flat tires on the right side of the car. I called the German equivalent of AAA, and they put me in contact with the Swiss version.

As we waited and waited in the parking lot of a flower shop, a family across the street saw baby Agatha and invited us in for dinner. When Emma and I prayed beforehand, the man and the woman both said they remembered their grandmothers praying. Hopefully now they see it's not so old-fashioned to pray! The gentleman accompanied me to the mechanic shop and we discussed the Gospel a bit as the new tires were being installed. The mechanic was gracious enough to give us both tires for free! With the car in good shape to get us back to Germany, we were able to relax with our new friends a bit. Their daughter loved holding Agatha. Although we weren't able to reach our destination on this trip, it's important to keep in mind that God might have had a much different place for us to go. Who knows what could come from those little encounters because of a hail storm and two flat tires? I'm still in contact with this Missouri Synod woman in Switzerland and we will plan another visit at a later date.

Please keep the people mentioned in this newsletter in your prayers. Pray that Oksana and Nina would be able to return to the United States as soon as possible. Pray for the Muslim gentleman, that God would open His eyes to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for the family we met in Switzerland and that our future visits there will be met with success. Please also pray for our continued work among U.S. soldiers and other English-speakers in the Kaiserslautern area.

Jesus be with you,

Rev. Nathaniel Jensen

The Jensen Family





Agatha with her Ukrainian friends, Oksana & Nina

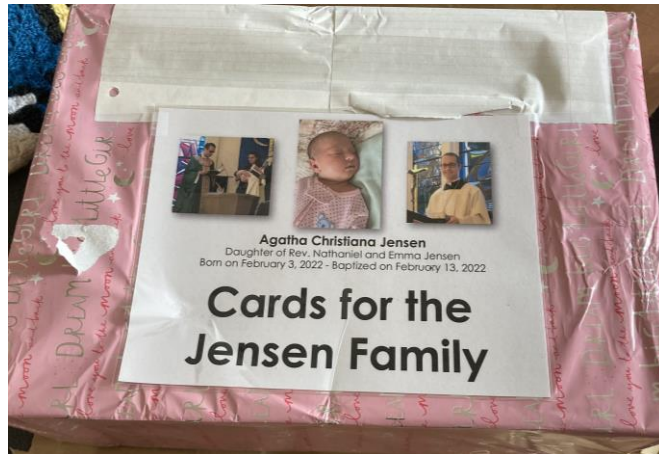


Delivering underwear for Ukrainians, generously donated by Holy Cross Lutheran in Collinsville, Ill.



Feeding Ukrainian refugees at Rhema Cafe

Ascension Ice Cream Social



What a lovely surprise to receive a box of cards from
my home congregation, Peace Lutheran in St. Louis!



To support the LCMS through the work of *Rev. Nathaniel and 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.

You can also support the Jensen family through:
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