

SERVING THE LORD IN

K-TOWN, GERMANY

NEWS FROM THE JENSEN FAMILY



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Landstuhl, Germany

October 26, 2022

Dear friends,

At the end of August, we enjoyed having Emma's family in town for two weeks. Her parents and the four youngest siblings live in Durban, South Africa, where Emma's dad works for U.S. customs. Emma's four youngest siblings enjoyed meeting their niece for the first time. We look forward to Emma's other two brothers coming to visit for Christmas.

Emma's family was able to join us on our congregational retreat to Lutherstadt Wittenberg over Labor Day weekend. Altogether we had 38 in attendance. Our theme for the retreat was "Lord, teach us to pray." I lead discussions on prayer in the Large Catechism, Luther on Psalm 119, and *The Lutheran Prayer Companion*. Chaplain Ayers, an army chaplain in our congregation, helped me with preaching for Matins and Vespers. On Sunday, we were able to participate in Pastor Wilhelm Weber's English service at the Old Latin School. Several members stayed for the 10:00 German service and some even for the 11:00 Ukrainian service! Pastor Weber spoke to our group about the work of the Old Latin School in Wittenberg. Pastor Honcharuk from Ukraine filled us in on the work of his growing Ukrainian congregation meeting at the Old Latin School. We also even had a visit from Martin Luther himself (aka Pastor Schuschke from Trinity, Frankfurt)! What a blessed time spent together in the place where the Reformation began!

The following weekend (September 11), after Divine Service and Bible Study, we drove to Lembach, France, where I was the main speaker for a mission festival organized by two congregations of our partner church, the Synod of France. I mainly spoke about the history of LCMS work in the Alsace region in France (where these congregations are located). I also spoke about the ongoing work of our congregation in Kaiserslautern as well as the work of the LCMS throughout Europe. It was a joy to visit with our brothers and sisters in Christ in France and to exchange ideas about how we can continue working together to proclaim the Gospel throughout Europe.

On September 17, we held our first altar guild/acolyte breakfast with fifteen people in attendance. After breakfast and a devotion on reverence based on Hebrews 12:18–29, we broke into two groups. The head of our altar guild, Christina Peterson, spoke to the ladies on the details of preparing the altar for Divine Service. Our head elder, Jeff Peterson, and I spoke to the young men about serving reverently at the altar and covered the details of serving as an acolyte. Then both groups came together in the sanctuary to discuss the Service of the Word. We plan on holding an altar guild/acolyte breakfast quarterly to train more servers and to review different parts of the liturgy.

On St. Michael's Day, September 29, we held a Divine Service with an emphasis on spiritual warfare and Christ's triumph over Satan. Following the service, we had a traditional St. Michael's Day feast! The Hester family prepared the goose, Emma baked Bannock bread, Bourbon-glazed carrots, and a blackberry dessert. Others provided drinks and so forth. Next year, we hope to hold a joint St. Michael's Day service with the SELK congregation whose church building we rent. The name of the SELK congregation is St. Michael's, so there are several depictions of St. Michael in the sanctuary.

At the beginning of October, we had the pleasure of hosting Rev. Mark Moss of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Pastor Moss is a retired chaplain who lived for several years in Germany, so he is quite familiar with our context. Pastor Moss preached for me and then presented to Adult Bible Class on the work of Lutheran Heritage Foundation. So far, we have utilized LHF's Arabic translations of Luther's Small Catechism for two Syrian gentlemen regularly visiting our church. Another friend, Andy Niggeman, who happened to be visiting us at the same time, organized this. Pastor Moss also brought us hundreds of Ukrainian translations of the LHF pamphlet "Jesus Never Fails," which I am able to distribute throughout the community. We are still working on getting more Ukrainian and Russian literature to pass out to the refugees in our area.

Our study of the Lutheran Confessions continues every Thursday evening at church. We just completed Formula of Concord, Article X, on Adiaphora, and will be moving on to Article XI on the doctrine of Election. We also hold a brief choir rehearsal before Confessions Study to prepare for Reformation Day. Our choir director, Mr. Brian Jefferies, will continue weekly choir rehearsals in preparation for Christmas. In Bible Study, we are working on an overview of the Old Testament, showing particularly how the Old Testament is interpreted in the New Testament and always points to Christ. Our Sunday catechesis has turned into a real confirmation class. We have four young catechumens enrolled and, so far, I am quite impressed!

As you may have noticed from the masthead, we have now entered our second year on the mission field. We arrived in Germany on October 7, 2021. Oh, how the time has flown! Oh, how the LORD has richly blessed us in this place! I thank the LORD for preserving us until this point and for allowing us to serve in such a faithful congregation. Please continue praying for us and for our work in Germany, in particular, that we might find an open door among the soldiers here.

Jesus be with you,

Rev. Nathaniel Jensen

The Jensen Family



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:
MISSION CENTRAL: 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105
Mark checks: Nathaniel Jensen #A10798-69485



Most of our group at the KELC retreat to Wittenberg. If you look closely, you can see St. Mary's church (on the left side), where Luther preached. In the distance you can see the Castle Church, where Luther posted the 95 Theses.

Our St. Michael's Day feast at KELC.



Baby Agatha is enjoying Autumn!