



# Written in Wittenberg

December 2017

## The Salmon Club

When my sisters and I were little girls growing up, we were tickled by the few times in the year that our dad wore “pink.” As PKs know (that’s the...um, cool? ...slang for a “pastor’s kid”), black is the color *du jour* for many pastors. So the two times out of the *entire year* that we would get settled into the church pew with

Mom and see Dad up front wearing pink, well, you can guess that these four little girls were extra focused on those occasions. At home, when we’d ask Dad why he was wearing pink, we would be corrected that it was “rose,” and that it was designated for the weeks in Advent and Lent which focus on rejoicing amidst the penitential seasons. Later, the joke in our family became that it was the even more manly-sounding “salmon” that Dad wore on *Gaudete* or *Laetare* Sunday in Advent and Lent. Now during this *Gaudete* (in Latin, “Rejoice!”) week of Advent, as I light the pink candle of my Advent wreath, I have to smile to myself thinking about this “salmon” nuance.



Fast-forward to my sophomore year in college, when I was having a difficult time finding friends who shared my faith and encouraged me in it. During one call home, I wondered aloud in desperation if I made the right choice in schools, since two years into it, I hadn’t found someone with whom I shared my confessional-Lutheran worldview. My dad joked that I could start a club and call it the “Salmon Club,” for people going against the current of the secular culture. That comment would help more than I knew at that moment of it helping to crack a smile under the tears.

In my time on the mission field in Germany, I have repeatedly thought of that comment, and how the life of a Christian is just that: swimming upstream. So much of being a missionary is the everyday witnessing to Jesus Christ and His gifts is by being countercultural in a post-Christian culture. Explaining what the (most always Christian) holidays are actually about, which Germans get off from work and most often don’t even know why. Folding my hands, bowing my head, and thanking God for providing, “all that I need to support this body and life,”

News from Kristin Lange, a missionary of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, serving the Lord in Germany



Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. - 1 Corinthians 4:22-25



### Introit for Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -  
Philippians 4:4-6

### Prayer Requests

- Ask that the celebrations of Christmas remain focused on the gift of Christ and the salvation He won for all people.
- Please keep all those traveling for the holidays safe.
- Thanksgiving for my Christian friend in Wittenberg, who encourages me to share the light of Christ with those around us!

when I am at a restaurant, amidst the stares. Patiently explaining to friends that no, my fiancé and I don't live together, and we won't until we have the marriage blessing of God before our community, because God commands it and the gifts He promises in marriage are far greater than convenience now. These examples go on, and they may sound simple. But these simple acts are often so contrary to what people expect or know, and they open up daily opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This simple witness of living according to God's Word, not society's, is needed very much in Wittenberg, and I would venture where you are as well!

So in this *Gaudete* Week of Advent, as you light the "salmon"-colored candle or see the paraments at church that invite us to rejoice in Jesus' coming to save us, join me in rejoicing for all the opportunities we have to share this gift of our salvation with those who don't know yet! It is against the norm, it doesn't put you and your desires first like the culture tells you to do, and you will likely get strange looks and ridicule for your "outdated" ideas. Take heart though, for the life of a Christian *is* counter-cultural. God used just about every contradiction to earthly wisdom, when He sent His perfect Son Jesus, the King of Kings, to be born in a barn and grow up to die our death so we don't have to! You will endure nothing on this earth that Jesus didn't endure *for you* and your eternal salvation, and that is great reason to rejoice!

*I wish you and your family joy in God's blessings this Christmas, and in 2018!*



My friend, Vivian, and me taking in Wittenberg's Christmas Market!

## PLEASE CONSIDER A YEAR END GIFT

As the year comes to an end, please pray about contributing a special year end gift to help me continue serving God's people in Wittenberg. I thank all of you for partnering with me through prayer and financial support. Your prayers are an encouragement to my work and your generous support allows me to share the Good News to the people here. Please prayerfully consider continuing this support. Thank you for sending me and making it possible for me to share the message of our crucified and risen Lord with those in Germany!

You may send a tax-deductible gift, marked "Kristin Lange - Germany" to any of the following. Danke schön!

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
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