



Easter cards filled my mailbox in Prague.

## THANK YOU!

Your thoughtfulness overwhelmed me when I returned to Prague after traveling to work with our churches in Germany and Romania during Holy Week. Thank you for the beautiful Easter cards and encouraging notes that you are praying for my work daily.

God is doing amazing things in Eurasia and I am excited that He has chosen me to help bring the Gospel to people in countries that truly do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Please continue to keep in touch!

- **Instagram:** Anyone can follow me at Cindy Zirbel Wrucke Missionary.
- **Facebook:** Search for Cindy Zirbel Wrucke Missionary and follow my page to see posts about upcoming events and brief news.
- **Mail:** My address in Prague is Nad Želivkou 475, Prague 6 – Nebušice, 164 00 Czech Republic
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LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## Easter in Eurasia



*Children at KELC participated in Palm Sunday services.*

### From Germany to Romania

My first Easter serving as a missionary in Eurasia certainly turned out to be memorable. I spent Palm Sunday in Kaiserslautern, Germany with our missionary pastor and deaconess who serve the military families there. The KELC (Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church) is a growing church; weekly attendance has tripled since our missionaries arrived almost two years ago. But the KELC also faces challenges in sustainability as they grow, and I spent the weekend learning more about their communication needs and helping support them to reach their goals.

On Maundy Thursday, I flew to Bucharest, Romania to spend the rest of Holy Week with our LCMS alliance missionary pastor, Rev. Sorin-Horia Trifa, and our church plant in Bucharest, where I learned about the challenges and joys of starting a church in a predominantly Orthodox country. Due to a three-hour flight delay, I missed the church service, but arrived in time for a live television

special, broadcast throughout Romania, discussing why Christians believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Having worked in broadcast television, I felt at home in the studio. But I wasn't prepared for the two-hour live discussion that presented survey statistics from the general population who claimed to be Christian but placed more value on works, rather than on salvation through Jesus Christ. The only Lutheran pastor on the program, Sorin was also the only participant who brought a Bible. Other guests included the head of the Baptist church in Romania and an Orthodox priest. After the show, Sorin explained the mission challenges in a country where false teaching abounds.

The entire Trifa family took me to visit the largest Orthodox church in Bucharest, where I could see firsthand how the Reformation never made it to most of Romania. According to Sorin, many Orthodox Christians still believe that the way to get to heaven is through their works in the church. The altar at the Orthodox church was hidden behind an ornately decorated wall, accessible only to the priests. Money stations and dead patriarchs filled the church. I was shocked to see a station where people paid to kiss the hand of a dead archbishop. People pay for baptisms, weddings and funerals, with costs proportionate to the size and stature of the church where the services are performed. For many, the expense is exorbitant and exclusive.

### Our Romanian Church Plant

Thankfully, we have a church plant in Bucharest, where the truth of God's Word is preached and the Sacrament is offered the way Christ instituted it. Our alliance missionary pastor is passionate about his work and, as a native Romanian, is well respected (continued on page 2).



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

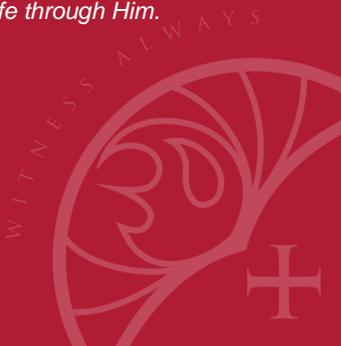
- My home church, St. Michael's in Prague, Czech Republic as we look for a new pastor to serve our congregation.
- Safe travels for me as I work in Denmark and Lithuania, as well as the Czech Republic.
- Successful theological symposiums this month in Palanga, Lithuania and Bystřice, Czech Republic.

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cumberland, WI for supporting my work through their congregation.
- Progress in my Czech lessons. I am enjoying the language tremendously and finding ways to practice it regularly.
- All of the individuals who have generously provided financial gifts and pledges.

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- Our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, who conquered death and gives us life through Him.



***Easter services in Bucharest***

Though the LCMS church plant currently has eight members after a little more than a year in existence, the congregation is growing and attracting many people who are looking for truth in God's Word. During the Saturday evening Easter vigil, which started at 11:00pm, I counted about 35 attendees at the two-hour service. What a joy it was for them to hear that Jesus Christ died for their sins, and through His resurrection He conquered death forever. How wonderful to share the Good News that eternal salvation was won for all believers through Jesus Christ, and not through money paid to a church or priest.

During another Easter service in daylight hours, the church door remained open. Several people came in during the service, listened to the sermon and then quietly left before the service ended. Some non-members came to the altar during Holy Communion to receive a blessing. Other guests stayed after the service to talk with Sorin about meeting during the upcoming week. Sorin said this is common. People are curious and they are searching for pure teaching of Scripture; but it takes awhile for them to abandon their family's Orthodox traditions and join our LCMS mission church, Biserica Lutherana Confesionala church in Bucharest. During the rest of my stay in Bucharest, we talked about several ways that I can help our church plant in its growth. I can hardly wait to see God's plan to expand His kingdom in Romania.



*This month I am leaning on the strength of God as I travel throughout several countries, supporting our pastors and missionaries in this region.*

**“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Psalm 18:2 (ESV)**

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke



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

To support the LCMS through the work of Cindy Zirbel Wrucke, you may send a tax-deductible gift and make checks payable to:  
 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 P.O. Box 66861  
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 Mark checks "Wrucke-Eurasia Support."

Or, you can make checks payable and send to:  
 Mission Central  
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 Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/wrucke](http://lcms.org/wrucke).