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## “If Christ be not raised...”

(1 Cor. 15:14 KJV)

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*



As I write this, yesterday was Easter for western Christians: the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, the foundation of our hope in Christ for forgiveness, for eternal life, for our reunion with fellow believers—for everything connected with our faith.

Take away our resurrected Lord, as St. Paul says, and it is all gone, “Your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” 1 Cor. 15:17 (ESV). No forgiveness. No eternal life. No “blessed reunion in heaven” with fellow-believers.



Hand-painted *kraslice*

Indeed, take away the resurrection and Scripture becomes a sham; the preaching of Christ—a lie; the hope of heaven—a hoax. As Paul says, “If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” 1 Cor. 15:19 (ESV). **But Christ is risen:** eyewitnesses saw Him, heard Him, touched Him, ate with Him, and they testified to the truth despite persecution and death.

### *Take away the Resurrection...*

Sadly, where I live and work that is exactly what has happened: so few know Jesus as Lord and Christ, alive and reigning at the right hand of the Father. So few have faith in His promise, “Because I live, you also shall live.” John 14:19 (ESV). Cultural Easter in the form of ornately decorated eggs (*kraslice*) hung on trees, chocolate bunnies and candy chicks, *pomlázka* switches—these are everywhere, but it is Easter without the living Jesus.



*Pomlázka* switches

It was a joy yesterday to celebrate Jesus' resurrection; it is also a call to continue to work and pray that others will come to confess, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

-Missionary Charles Cortright

## ВОСКРЕСЕНЬЕ

### Sunday

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

One of the little linguistic surprises we've encountered in our Russian language lessons is that the Russian name for Sunday, **Воскресенье** (*vos-kree-SYEHN-yuh*), is literally “Resurrection Day” in honor of Christ's Resurrection.

Learning that sparked two thoughts in me.

First, there's more than a bit of irony in it given modern Russian history! How the name survived during the days of the Soviet Union is a mystery to me, but I am glad.

Second, it's a much more appropriate name than Sunday, the “day of the sun,” don't you think?

**благословенное воскресенье для вас!**

**Blessed Resurrection Day to you**

...every Sunday!



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## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MEETINGS...

...OR SO IT SEEMS!

### RUSSIA UPDATE

From our experience last year in obtaining our visa to stay in the CZ beyond 90 days as “tourists,” we know that there are lots of hoops to the process of obtaining foreign visas in general. We are poised to send in our formal request to the agency for a Russian visa, but before that can happen we must obtain letters and certificates of invitation from the Ingrian Lutheran Church that have been reviewed by the Russian government. We are aiming still for sometime in June to move. So, we continue to prepare by taking Russian language lessons and in reading about Russian history and culture. Please keep this in prayer!

### THE SUN NEVER SETS

We have a family joke that the “sun never sets” on our family. Circumstances have combined with ministry calls that see our family spread around the globe! We’re here in Prague; our son Kendall serves in Taiwan; our son Geoffrey is a pastor in Vancouver, BC; our son Ryan is a pastor in Madison, WI; and our son Patrick is principal of Divine Savior Academy in the Houston, TX area. So, when it’s noon here, it’s 6pm in Taiwan, 3am in Vancouver, and 5am in Madison/Houston. See, “the sun never sets” on us! :)

-Chuck and Connie Cortright



The Lithuanian Lutheran Church in Palanga

In April Connie and I will be traveling to various meetings. We return to Palanga, Lithuania April 10-14, where I will present two papers to a gathering of the Lithuanian Lutheran pastors along with Rev. Dr. Arthur Just. We return to Prague and the next week travel to Bystřice in eastern Czech Republic (CZ) near the Slovakian border to present the same two papers (along with Dr. Just) to pastors from all over Europe attending the Luther Academy conference April 16-18.

Chaplaincy work will take me back out to the eastern region of CZ late in the month, and then to Leipzig to meet with our LCMS mission workers there. Maybe it won’t rain the whole time?!



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our progress in our visa application for Russia*
- *The success of the conferences we will be attending*
- *Safe travel for all our missionaries*
- *The health of our missionaries*

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *God’s grace and protection*
- *The joy of Easter*
- *Opportunities to serve our Savior by serving others*

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us*

Dear partner in our Eurasia work,

Please accept our gratitude and thanks for your prayers and support. We would not be here except for you and for your love of the Gospel of our Lord. You are truly our partners in this work.

You can find our prayer card at [www.lcms.org/cortright](http://www.lcms.org/cortright) and on the updated Mission Central website: <https://missioncentral.us>.

Your gifts in support may be given using the information and addresses at the bottom of this page. Whether you give through Mission Central or directly to the LCMS, your gift supports us in our work in Jesus’ name. Thank-you in His name, and may God bless and keep you!

-Chuck and Connie Cortright

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