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HERE'S TO JUNE IN САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГЕ (St. Petersburg)

It's official! We have received our letters of invitation from the Ev. Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (ELCIR) and are moving to St. Petersburg in mid-June (God willing) to begin work at the Theological Institute of the ELCIR there. With the receipt of the letters, we will submit our visa request to the Russia consulate in Prague. Once approved, we will move first to a temporary apartment in St. Petersburg, then look for a suitable "permanent" apartment home. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin this new aspect of our service in Eurasia!



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to charles.cortright@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Bypassing Babel

At the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11), God confused human language because of sin. At Pentecost (Acts 2), the Holy Spirit reversed Babel by the miraculous gift of language to the Apostles. Recently, I got to experience how the Gospel continues to bring people together across the divide of language.



Lecturing on Law & Gospel in Bystřice, CZ

Last month in Palanga, Lithuania, and in Bystřice, CZ, I presented lectures to two pastoral conferences. In both places, my presentations were translated into various languages—Lithuanian, Czech, Ukrainian—and those listening asked questions and made comments, which were translated back and forth into English, Czech, etc. Learning and discussion shuttled across the divide created at Babel, but overcome by the unifying power of the Gospel.

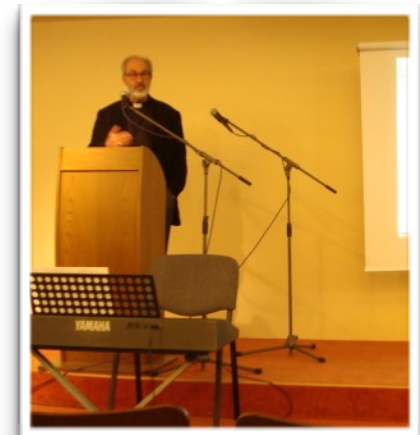


Listening to a presentation in Bystřice, CZ

Approximately fifty pastors and other Lutherans attended the conference in Bystřice. Besides my lectures, the group

also listened to Rev. Dr. Arthur Just, Jr., of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne speak about St. Luke's Gospel. We also heard lectures delivered by Czech and Polish theologians.

Connie remarked how amazing it was to listen to the back-and-forth between the languages, but especially how everyone came together across the divide of languages when the Lord's Prayer was prayed at one point. It was spoken in Czech and English and Ukrainian and Romanian—perfectly discordant to the world's ears—but it was plain (to borrow from Acts 2) that the Lord was hearing us praying "in our own tongues the mighty works of God"!



Rev. Dr. Just talking about Luke's Gospel

It is a remarkable and exciting privilege to teach God's Word across the divide of language and culture! And even more remarkable and exciting is how the Holy Spirit works through the message of the Gospel of Christ to reach a "people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation." Rev. 5:9 (ESV).

-Charles & Connie Cortright



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our transition to the work in Russia, our language study, and for our new colleagues in the Ingrian Lutheran churches*
- *Our grandson, Christian, and his upcoming surgery in summer*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *God's blessings of family and marriage*
- *God's guidance and blessing over our first year of mission service*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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



God Is Good



FORTY YEARS

Forty years ago, Connie said, “I will,” and became my friend and companion of a lifetime. We are celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary this year (June 10) a little early because of our move to St. Petersburg. God is good: He has blessed me first with my Savior and second with Connie. Luther liked to call his wife Katherina, “*mea costa*,” “my rib” in tribute to God’s gift of a faithful and loving “helper fit for him.” Gen. 2:20 (ESV). That is certainly my Connie: “*mea costa*.” Praise and thanks to God for His goodness!

MINISTRY UPDATE

One year ago, we arrived in Prague to begin our service here in Eurasia. God is good: He has blessed our first year with health, and opportunities to serve that have helped us gain experience as

novice mission workers, so that we are confident in making our move to Russia. Over the year, it has been a privilege to serve St. Michael’s congregation here in Prague, preaching, teaching, and pastoring. As chaplain for the region, it has likewise been a privilege to meet with colleagues at regional meetings, and to travel to where they serve to serve them. It has been a joy to provide a regular devotional letter to all the region’s personnel. The call to serve as a theological educator in the region—which I summarize as “helping Lutheran pastors bring Jesus to de-Christianized Europe”—has been of special focus as I have presented at conferences and interacted with various Lutheran pastors and church leaders over the past months.



Thank you for *your* prayers and support as we begin our second year of service.
—Missionary Charles Cortright

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 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

To support the LCMS through the work of Charles and Connie Cortright, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
Attn: Gary W. Thies, Missionary/Advocate
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