



**I tried Kofola and liked it!**

## NEW TASTES!

I am so grateful to the many hosts who serve good food when I travel in the region. Even though I usually have no idea what I am eating, it is certainly delicious. Thankfully, I have no food allergies and love to try new things.

But my fellow missionaries warned me about Kofola, a drink developed as a substitute for Coca Cola when it wasn't available under Communist rule. When they said it kind of tastes like licorice (which I love), I decided to give it a try. They were certainly right that it doesn't taste anything like coke. I found it quite tasty, along with the nameless soup.

Feel free to follow along with more of my mission travels!

- **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 – Nebužice, 164 00 Czech Republic
- **Email:** [Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org](mailto:Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org)



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org](mailto:Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

[Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org](mailto:Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org)

## Sowing Seeds



*Pentecost Sunday at the remodeled church building in Kutaisi, Georgia.*

***“The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.” Mark 4:26-27 (ESV)***

Mission work reminds me of my gardening days. Why do some seeds sprout and thrive, while others never make it out of the ground? As missionaries, we plant the seeds of the Gospel and celebrate new believers in Christ, but wonder why sometimes the seeds just don't seem to take root. Honestly, we don't know what will happen with the seeds we plant and we cannot take credit for any of the outcomes. Our job simply involves sowing the seeds and God takes care of the rest.

This past month, I traveled to Kutaisi, Georgia for the dedication of a newly

renovated church building that we helped provide for our partner church. Because of the work of an LCMS missionary more than a decade ago, two of the men he met have now become Lutheran pastors and their churches are growing. This former missionary may or may not know how the seeds he planted are producing a harvest, but I was blessed to see that our work does make a difference, even in very challenging conditions.

The church building that was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday now provides a place where its members can praise God, and receive Word and Sacrament each week. But the church in Kutaisi still faces challenges. Some of the neighbors complained about hearing music on a Sunday morning; the new church sign at the front door was stolen the same night of the dedication. But the congregation remains undaunted. They are thrilled to have a place where they can all fit, instead of the apartment where they used to meet.

Life in Georgia is not easy compared to American standards. I saw more cows than cars, as they graze everywhere without fences and somehow manage to make it back to the correct home in the evening for milking. Georgians are happy that their country has effectively dealt with corruption, is safe, and new businesses continue to develop, along with the country. (continued on page 2)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- *Martina, an atheist who is curious about Jesus, but not sure why she needs God.*
- *Safe travels for me as I work in Germany and the Czech Republic this month.*
- *All of the missionaries in the LCMS Eurasia region who are preparing to come to the field, finishing their service, or moving to serve in other countries.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- *Our two new pastors coming to serve the English and Czech congregations at my home church, St. Michael's in Prague, Czech Republic.*
- *Continued progress in my Czech lessons. Native Czechs can now understand much of what I am saying.*
- *All of the individuals and congregations who have generously provided financial gifts and pledges.*

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- *Making seeds grow!*



*Church door and sign in Kutaisi on dedication day.*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Georgia continues to grow as our new pastors now plant seeds. For the first time, two Georgians will attend the Corpus Christi conference for young Lutherans in Europe, where they will receive sound theological education and connect with others in the region.

Seeing firsthand how God uses the seeds we sow—and how He nurtures and grows His kingdom—inspires me. As I witness to people

I meet in Prague, I wonder what will happen with them. When I invite people to church and they don't come, I am disappointed, even though it isn't really my business. Each time I get a haircut, I know that I am the only Christian that my young hair stylist has ever met. She told me that she is an atheist, as well as all of her friends and family, and I am the only person she knows who believes in God. But she is curious and I am planting seeds. I pray that the Holy Spirit touches her heart and the seeds take root, especially in a country that so desperately needs freedom in Christ.



*Cows commonly graze along the roads in Georgia.*



*I shared one of my favorite bible verses with a Czech man in his native language this month, thanks to my Czech bible.*

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (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  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861  
Mark checks "Wrucke-Eurasia Support."

Or, you can make checks payable and send to:  
Mission Central  
40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034-7105  
Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/wrucke](http://lcms.org/wrucke).