

ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

from Benjamin Helge, LCMS Missionary
Serving our Lord in Havířov-Šumbark, Czech Republic



Birthday Blessings

Thank you for the abundance of cards, messages, gifts and celebrations. God showers His blessings (in very tangible ways) upon me through you. He grants me continued health. May the next 30 years be to His glory and for His Gospel. He is good all the time. Sending all my love to you, my faithful reader, supporter and partner in sharing the message of Christ crucified.



Big Friday to Easter Monday

Celebrating looks slightly different during Passion Week and Easter in the cities and villages of the Czech Republic. As you might have noticed, Big Friday (Velký Pátek) is not a typo, but rather the same day as Good Friday. Yet most families gather on Easter Monday (the day after our traditional Easter Sunday) to eat as well as to do some “whipping.” (You can look it up on YouTube if you’re interested.)

God continues to bless me with the opportunity to sing with a band and group of Czech guys for various events and services. On the Saturday before Easter, we helped organize, plan and play for a night of worship and prayer. Leading from Big Friday to Easter Sunday, we progressed through the evening reflecting on all that Christ did for us. As the youth group acted out the crucifixion, the band played and all went dark as Jesus took his last breath. After a long pause, the black curtain (seen to the right) fell to the ground revealing a picture of the risen Christ.

He is Risen! That is the message we proclaim each and every day. Even in public schools this year, old family pictures that my mom sent me (thanks mom!) helped lead into sharing about the Easter message.

Praise be to our God for He has overcome the grave. Jesus Christ defeated sin, death and the devil. May His name be known throughout the entire world!



Palm branches lead to the cross and altar draped in black in Albrechtice, as we remember God’s sacrifice for us.



Easter greetings from the Helge family (a few years ago). Our family photo helps to share the Gospel in schools.

Serve with the LCMS

There are many opportunities to serve as a short-term or GEO missionary. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

Join me in giving thanks to God for:

- You, my prayer warrior, supporter and encourager.
- The opportunity to share the Easter Gospel in schools and to lift high the name of Jesus.
- Families everywhere, especially the family of believers.
- Bringing Daniel to faith and his proclamation of Jesus Christ as his Savior.
- Providing teams to serve in Poland this summer.
- Granting me 30 years of life.
- Allowing me to use my gift of singing and songwriting to bring Him glory.

Pray that God would:

- Open ears to hear the Good News as it is proclaimed.
- Grant wisdom and guidance to our church plant team in Havířov-Šumbark.
- Strengthen and grow the faith given to Daniel and connect him to the local church.
- Provide a location for a church plant in Olomouc so they can begin to meet regularly. (GEO missionaries Peter and Lucy Hoffmann serve in Olomouc.)
- Rid the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



God Uses His Church

Two months ago, you read about a young man named Daniel. He and I first met at an English competition at school in February. He then accepted my invitation to English Talk Group (ETG). He attended a few times and continues to come. A young Lutheran university student, Jana, met Daniel while doing her student teaching a few weeks after Daniel and I had met. Jana also sometimes helps at ETG, where she and Daniel met outside of class. And after meeting with him a few more times, I learned that Daniel's teacher gave him a Bible and He began reading it. Last week Daniel proclaimed Christ as his Savior and desires to learn more about who God is. God uses each of us in different ways to share His Gospel and it is beautiful.

Join us in praising God for bringing another soul into His kingdom, and pray for Daniel that his faith would grow and not be taken away.



The ETG tradition continues as we take our weekly couch picture on a Wednesday night in Šumbark.

PRAY | SUPPORT | ENCOURAGE

To financially partner with this ministry, please send your tax-deductible gift to:

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

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Benjamin Helge." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at www.lcms.org/helge.

You can also send your support to my friends at:

Mission Central
407818 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Contact Benjamin: benjamin.helge@lcms.org

