



Missioncentral.us/Lawson or www.lcms.org/Lawson



Lark cookies

BECHA

Becha (pronounced Vesna) means Spring in Russian. There are many traditions in Russia that celebrate the beginning of Spring and the end of Winter. Celebrations range from dances and bonfires to culinary treats.

Baking Larks is an old Russian tradition to greet Spring. Larks are cookies that are shaped like small birds and decorated with raisins and nuts. Besides being eaten Larks were hung with thread on high poles, fences and trees to give the impression that they were flying in hope of a good harvest.



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

Getting ready and packing up



Left: Cosette “helps” pack up our belongings in storage.

“Stuff” is what I’ve been thinking about the past few months. We’ve gotten the green light to head toward Saint Petersburg. And, we’ve been getting ready to make the move as we wait for visas. Our lives have been that old comedian’s joke about how our houses are filled with stuff. And then we buy containers so we can get more stuff. After more than 30 years of marriage and three kids our house is full of stuff. I ask myself often, “Where did we get this? And, “why did we keep it?”

We now weigh each item we own with take, pack away, or throw? Patty -- who I believe secretly is a minimalist -- keeps blaming me for the “stuff” in our lives and is always quick to say, “You don’t need it.” Why her decisions about what to keep or throw always seem to focus on my stuff makes me wonder. For the kids this will be their first move in their lives so sorting and weighing what to keep or get rid of has been a learning experience for them.

(continued)



Lutheran Rose Window at Christ the King Lutheran Church, LaBelle, FL

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia that they faithfully share salvation through Jesus to their communities.*
- *Those who are persecuted for their faith in Christ*
- *Those who suffer from tragedy an loss during this holiday season.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *That we've gotten the green light to travel and move forward to serve our Lord.*
- *The care and support that we've received in support of this mission.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *He keeps His promises to save us through His Son, Jesus.*



Above: Our storage fills up with "stuff."

(continued)

As we sort out our lives it means that we're at the next stage of our journey to Russia. We started this journey last year and now we're making the next move. During this past year we've had the opportunity to meet and share with many of you a bit of ourselves and the mission. It has been your generosity that has helped get us to this point and we cannot say thank you enough. I ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we move forward to serve our Lord.



Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. – Martin Luther

Happy Easter, from the Lawsons



To support the LCMS through the work of Jerry Lawson, you may send a tax-deductible gift:

- **By calling** a donor care representative at 1-888-843-5267
- **By sending a check** (with Lawson/Russia on the memo line) to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Or Mission Central 40718 Highway E-16 Mapleton, IA 51034
- **Online** at missioncentral.us/Lawson or www.lcms.org/givenow/Lawson