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Easter in Prague



My Czech neighbors shared a slice of a traditional Easter food, Velikonoční Nádivka.

EASTER STUFFING

One of the new foods I tried for the first time this Easter was Velikonoční Nádivka, or Easter stuffing. My Czech neighbors made it and gave it to me the day before Easter. The ingredients include bread, eggs, spices, several kinds of meat and sausage, and green herbs. The traditional herbs used are parsley, chives, dandelion greens and young nettles. I'm not sure what was in the dish I ate, but I tasted at least three different meats, including a smoked sausage, and more than parsley and chives. It was delicious and unique!

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.
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Maundy Thursday joint Czech and English church service at St. Michael's in Prague.

Easter is, for me, even more important than Christmas. Our forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation didn't happen in the manger, it was won for us through Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

So, it seems strange to live in a country where the familiar, "He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" at Easter is unfamiliar to so many. I am blessed to have Christian landlords, but once I step outside the gate, I live in one of the most challenging mission fields in the world. Yet, the Christian history of this country is still evident today.

For example, my Czech calendar lists Velký Pátek (Great Friday), and many businesses close in the afternoon. Easter Sunday (Neděle Velikonoční) is also listed as Zmrtvýchvstání Krista, The Resurrection of Christ. Thursday is named Zelený Čtvrtek, or Green Thursday, referring to the days of fasting—only eating green things—until

Easter Sunday. Easter Monday (Pondělí Velikonoční) is also a national holiday in the Czech Republic, with most stores and businesses closed.

The church services at my Prague home congregation were familiar, with a few exceptions. We held palm branches at the Czech service on Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday, or Green Thursday, was a special joint service with our Czech and English congregations together, which I always love. We sang the same hymns with English and Czech words, and the sermon delivered by our Czech pastor was translated into English by our bilingual Czech deacon.

On Good Friday, though, I missed the stripped altar and the solemnity of services in America. I also missed the Easter Sunday traditions that go along with a beautiful Easter morning church service in my Wisconsin home congregation. In Prague, there was no special music, choirs or flowers, and no Easter brunch. But, the familiar message of the empty tomb brought joy, as well as the refrain, "He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Continued proficiency in my Czech language lessons.
- The Czech people to hear the Gospel and seek Christ.
- Missionaries from the LCMS Eurasia region, who are on home service raising support to continue serving in the field.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The special Easter cards and greetings from my American friends and family.
- Healing in my sprained knee.
- All of the individuals and congregations who have generously provided financial gifts and pledges, and who are helping make arrangements for my home service this fall.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, who conquered death and gives us life through Him.



Prague Walk for Life



I joined about 10,000 Czechs on April 27 for the annual Národní Pochod pro Život a Rodinu, or National March for Life and Family. We walked from the bottom of the Prague Castle through the city to the National Museum on Wenceslas Square. Check out more pictures and a video on my Cindy Zirbel Wrucke Missionary Facebook page, which is public.

Home Service Update

Plans are coming along nicely for home service visits. Please join me at these locations:

- Aug. 24-25** – St. Mark, Janesville
- Aug. 29-Sept. 3** – DFW, Texas
- Sept. 8-11** – St. Louis, MO
- Sept. 13** – Mission Central, Iowa
- Sept. 15** – LWML, Mapleton, IA
- Sept. 19-21** – South Wisconsin LWML Fall Retreat, Green Lake, WI
- Sept. 22** – Peace, Neenah, WI
- Sept. 23-30** - Minnesota
- Oct. 1** – St. John, Horicon, WI
- Oct. 2** – Fairwater, WI
- Oct. 6** – St. Peter, Lebanon, WI
- Oct. 12** – LWML Rally, Burnett, WI
- Oct. 13** – Peace, Beaver Dam, WI

- Oct. 14** – St. Peter, Reedsburg, WI
- Oct. 19** – LWML Rally, Hartford, WI
- Oct. 20** – Good Shepherd, Watertown
- Oct. 23** – Immanuel, Marshfield, WI
- Oct. 26** – Trinity, Athens, WI
- Oct. 27** – Zion, Colby, WI
- Nov. 3** – St. John's, Portage, WI

Please let me know as early as possible if you have specific dates that you want me to present an update on my mission work. I can also meet with groups of 10-20 in homes during the week, if you want to host a gathering.

The best way to reach me is through email at (Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org).

Thanks again for walking with me on this mission journey!

This month, I remember the history and pray for the future of the Czech people; one thing has never changed for them:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8 (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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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Mark checks "Wrucke-Eurasia Support."

Or, you can make checks payable and send to:

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Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/wrucke.