



This beautiful night shot of Odessa, Ukraine was only possible because our flight was delayed for several hours.

TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Having worked in communication roles at American Airlines for several years, I have enjoyed plenty of travel around the world. But I now live in a part of the world with airports that wouldn't be described as "modern." Such was the case at Odessa, Ukraine.

The Odessa airport has one runway. When we arrived, we had to turn around at the end of the runway and then head back to the terminal on the same pavement. When it was time to depart from Odessa, we boarded the plane on the tarmac and waited for departure. After the safety demonstration onboard, it was announced that the runway would be closing for two hours. So, we took our hand luggage, deplaned and headed back to the terminal to wait at one of the two gates.

The airline provided us with sandwiches and a drink until we departed safely a few hours later, and then we saw the stunning view of Odessa and the Black Sea from the sky.



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Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org

Eurasia Regional Meeting in Odessa



Our Eurasia team of missionaries and their families in Odessa, Ukraine.

Each year, the Eurasia region holds a week-long meeting for missionaries to gather together with their families for a time of church worker care. For many missionaries, it is the only time they see others in the region face-to-face, especially if they serve in remote parts of the world. This year, all the deployed Eurasia missionaries and their families, as well as our alliance missionary pastors from Romania and the Czech Republic, attended.

The Eurasia region met in Odessa, Ukraine August 12-16, 2019 for fellowship, education and worship. Rev. Dr. John Bombaro provided outstanding instruction on "Resolute Discipleship." Rev. Bombaro provided a fascinating explanation of humanitarianism and how it has become a new form of idolatry.

Some of the questions we wrestle with include how we witness with the saving grace of the Gospel, when our neighbors and society expect churches to provide

soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other aid. How do we continue to focus on Christ as our King, when society has elevated man and "self" to a higher status?

In our part of the world, we work among people in many countries who even take this idea to a higher level, by defining human life in terms of its "quality of life" and potential burden to society. For example, Iceland has almost eliminated Downs Syndrome from its country through abortion. Many countries in Europe have already legalized euthanasia, not just for the terminally ill, but also for the mentally ill.

Rev. Bombaro's excellent teaching provided thoughtful discussions beyond the classroom, at dinner and well into the evenings. The week ended too soon.

The week with my colleagues was much appreciated, as I prepare for my home service. I will be traveling through many states and cities to meet with you and share more about the mission work in Eurasia.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Czech congregation in Prague, without a pastor right now, that God would send a mission-minded leader for this congregation.*
- *Those who are homeless and seeking suitable shelter for their families.*
- *Safe travels during my home service.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Native Czechs who have complimented me on my language improvement.*
- *Safe travels for all of our missionaries and their families, even with delays, while traveling to and from our regional meeting in Odessa.*
- *All of the missionaries in the Eurasia region, who serve with passion for Christ and His Kingdom.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *All of those brothers and sisters in Christ who support the work of missionaries throughout the world.*

You are invited!



Please join me at one of these locations for a mission update presentation this fall:

- Aug. 24, 6pm and Aug. 25, 8am** – St. Mark, Janesville
- Aug. 29-Sept. 3** – DFW, Texas
- Sept. 7, 6pm and Sept. 8, 8am** – Shepherd of the Hills, Onalaska, WI
- Sept. 9-12** – St. Louis, MO
- Sept. 13, 1pm** – Mission Central, Iowa
- Sept. 15** – LWML, Mapleton, IA
- Sept. 19-21** – SWD LWML Fall Retreat, Green Lake, WI
- Sept. 22** – Peace, Neenah, WI
- Sept. 23-30** - Minnesota
- Oct. 1, 6pm** – St. John, Horicon, WI
- Oct. 2, 1pm** – Zion, Fairwater, WI
- Oct. 3** – Good Shepherd, Appleton
- Oct. 6, 8am** – St. Peter, Lebanon, WI
- Oct. 8, 6:30pm** – St. Martin, Chilton, WI

- Oct. 10, 8am** – LWML Zone Rally, Almond, WI
- Oct. 12** – LWML Rally, Burnett, WI
- Oct. 10&13** – Peace, Beaver Dam, WI
- Oct. 14, 1pm and 6pm** – St. Peter, Reedsburg, WI
- Oct. 16** – Peace, Arbor Vitae, WI
- Oct. 19** – LWML Rally, Watertown, WI
- Oct. 20** – Good Shepherd, Watertown
- Oct. 23, 8am, 2pm and 6pm** – Immanuel, Marshfield, WI
- Oct. 26, 4pm** – Trinity, Athens, WI
- Oct. 27, 8am** – Zion, Colby, WI
- Oct. 27, 4:30pm** – St. John, Edgar, WI
- Oct. 28, 10am** – Our Savior, Gleason, WI
- Nov. 3, 8am** – St. John’s, Portage, WI
- Nov. 5, 7pm** – Bethlehem, Sheboygan, WI
- Nov. 6, 11am** – Our Redeemer, Sheboygan, WI
- Nov. 10, 8:30am** – Christ Lutheran, Gillett, WI
- Nov. 13, 10am** – Good Shepherd by the Lake, Stoughton, WI
- Nov. 17, 9am** – Pella, Waupun, WI

I look forward to seeing you soon!
Thanks for walking with me on this mission journey.



Today, I am thankful for my conversations with God, who hears and answers prayer:

“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Matthew 6:6 (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. 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:
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Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/wrucke.