

ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

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



Come with Questions

God showed us the need for a gathering where new Christians and those seeking to know more about Christ could be taught and ask questions. Beginning October 13th, we will gather a group of students for *Uncover*, a time every other week to learn foundational truths about the Triune God. We pray that this will be a time of growth for all that attend. Pray for the students (Filip, Nikol, Daniel and Bara) pictured below, that they join us.



UNCOVER

Gathered Together

A white table cloth lies over a rollable table. The faint sounds of the neighbors above trickle into the room. The couches and chairs face the makeshift altar and screen. And, the people fill these seats and hear the great news that forgiveness of sin and life comes through Jesus Christ.

September 1st marked a new beginning for our church plant team and the K4 Clubroom in Havířov-Šumbark. This space, located in the basement of one apartment complex, continues to serve as a meeting place for events such as English Talk Group, morning prayer time and other outreach activities to the community. Additionally, God now gathers us together in the afternoon at 4:30 pm, every other Sunday, to hear His Word and to receive the gifts He promises to give. While it has taken much time for a regular service to begin, we praise God for gathering His church together. We continue to seek God's guidance and wisdom in how to reach the community of Šumbark with the Gospel.

While we are still figuring out some practical and logistical elements pertaining to Sunday services, we know that we are called to go out. As with any group of people, we have various gifts and talents which God has given. We are currently preparing for some weekly Advent activities as well as a series of lectures and presentations to begin in 2020.

All this is done for the sake of the Gospel. Continue to pray for this community and for the growth of God's church here. Praise to Him alone who has made all things new.



Libor Šikula, SCEAV pastor, leads our bi-weekly Sunday services in the K4 Clubroom.

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.
- Sunday services beginning in the K4 Clubroom.
- The families serving at the church plant and on the team.
- English Talk Group in Havířov-Šumbark and the Gospel being heard by every student who attends.
- The opportunity and time to gather with new Christians and seekers at *Uncover*.

Pray that God would:

- Keep our church plant team unified so that we serve Him alone.
- Grant new ideas for outreach to the entire community of Havířov-Šumbark.
- Grant quick visa processing and approval for new GEO missionary Chelsea Irwin, who will be serving in Bohumín, CZ.
- Provide a location for a church plant in Olomouc so that they can begin to meet regularly. (GEO missionaries Peter and Lucy Hoffmann serve in Olomouc.)
- Rid the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



Excited to Learn

Whispering students abound as I enter the elementary school Moravská. “Ben’s back!” “Who’s Ben?” “Oh, no, I have to speak English.” I chuckle to



Základní škola Moravská educates elementary and middle school students. Students mainly come from the community of Havířov-Šumbark.

myself as I greet each student with a friendly “Good morning!” I head upstairs to the teacher’s offices to be welcomed by three smiling faces of teachers already well into the school year. They make me a cup of coffee, offer me a Czech koláč (a little circle cake of deliciousness) and share about their summers.

I’m back in the classroom teaching conversational English.

The lessons give me the opportunity to interact with the community and meet its members.

Through these interactions, God provides ways to invite teachers and students alike to various activities outside of school.

God continues to use English Talk Group (ETG), one of these activities, as a means for students to practice English and hear His Gospel. At our first gathering, He



English Talk Group starts its sixth school year of conversation and sharing the Gospel!

brought three new students to our English family and many

returned for another year of life together. May ears and hearts be open to hear the Word of God so that the mouths of all who attend ETG may proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

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:

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407818 Highway E-16
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