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Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalm 95:2 (ESV)

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luke 1:30-31 (ESV)



The Czech Republic

Did you know?

Ruler Franz Joseph I, the longest reigning leader in Europe, at one time, resided in the Archbishop's Palace in Olomouc.

To be added or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to

Peter.hoffmann@lcms.org

with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

If you received a hard copy of this newsletter, and would like to help us be green and save on paper and postage, please send an email to peter.hoffmann@lcms.org.

Silesian Church Painting Fest

Our Silesian Church outreach team held a Painting Fest event in a local café near the university in Olomouc. It was advertised on their newly created Facebook page, and there were a number of visitors who saw the ad and participated. Everyone was asked to paint a pre-drawn scene depicting something related to the Garden of Eden. The pictures will be hung in a local long term care facility. Everyone enjoyed the event and the relationships that started to form.

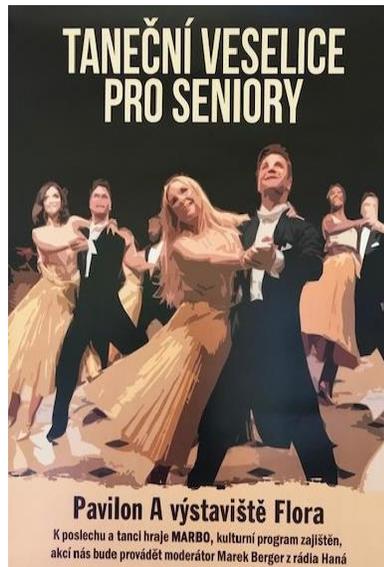


Relationships in the Cafe

The café is a very popular meeting place in Olomouc, and Europe, in general. In this case, we got double for the effort. Shown are two medical students from the Silesian church. One attends school in Olomouc and one attends in Prague. It is a great place to build relationships.



Making Relationships at our Senior Club



We attended an event held by the City of Olomouc for the senior clubs. Besides entertainment and dancing, it gave us the opportunity to better know the seniors in our club and also in other clubs. What better way to get to know someone than to dance with them. It also helps with learning the Czech language. Over 500 seniors attended this event. Seniors represent approximately 20% of the population in Olomouc. The friendships being made will last for many years.



Thanksgiving and Advent



As we celebrate Thanksgiving and approach Advent, we are so blessed and humble to be servants of our Lord here or anywhere. What a gift we have in Christ Jesus and in Sacred Scripture. It teaches us that mankind can only expect eternal separation from God as the punishment for our sins. However, God has made a provision for our sin by sending us his Son. Jesus, the only righteous one, who can pardon our sins and reconcile us to God. What love God has shown us in Jesus Christ who bore the punishment for all who believe in Him. God approaches us and seeks us in Jesus Christ. It is by grace through faith that we are saved. Jesus said, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). God graciously opens hearts especially in the joyful season of Advent and Christmas for many to hear from faithful loved ones the grace, mercy, hope, love, forgiveness and eternal life freely given to us through the work of Jesus Christ. We pray that all of us will seek to examine ourselves and confess our sins and take every opportunity to share the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have been blessed to be a blessing.

We want to express our gratitude to our God and Father, and to you who have been so encouraging with your letters, emails, sacrificial gifts, prayers, and to those angels taking care of our stateside business. We are certainly blessed to be in partnership and fellowship with those who love God and who bear fruit of their faithfulness to help bring others into the Kingdom of God. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty who is certainly worthy of all honor and praise. Rejoice Christian friends because our Lord reigns and will right all wrongs. We love all of you and pray all will joyfully share the light of Christ with those whom God places in your path. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



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 Peter and Lucy Hoffmann, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
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