

ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

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



An ETG Thanksgiving

English Talk Group (ETG) Havířov-Šumbark hosted its sixth annual Thanksgiving dinner. With some cooking help from Alison Roman (and her Small Kitchen, Big Thanksgiving feature with the NY Times), sixteen individuals joined me for food, friends and a short thought about all that God has done for us through Christ Jesus.

We thank you for your continued support and partnership in sharing the Gospel. God continues to build relationships to plant seeds when His story is told.

Thank you!



Public School Brings Students to Church

“Ben, the principal wants this contract signed stating that you work here as a volunteer, that you have free lunch whenever you teach and that you won’t proselytize,” explained an English teacher and now good friend as she passed me the draft contract. Six years ago, God placed this school into my weekly schedule. What I thought would be the most difficult school to share the Gospel in has provided the most opportunities to proclaim the Good News of Christ crucified.

This month, the school itself placed around 600 students into a Lutheran church in Bludovice, a nearby part of town, to enjoy a pre-Advent concert with performances from various students. The organizing teacher asked at the beginning, “Who’s in a church for the first time?” At least half the students raised their hands. She also gave me the opportunity to share about Christmas in America and why and how I celebrate. Obviously, God prepared this opportunity. While I still respected the agreement that I have with the school, I happily shared of the birth of the Savior, Jesus, sang *O, Come All Ye Faithful* and led a few students in singing an *Irish Blessing*.

Thank you for your continued prayers. The Spirit is working new opportunities for the nations to hear about the love of God. He is changing lives even when we can’t see it happening.



Students listen to a variety of music (rock, classical, Christmas, Czech and English) filling almost every seat in the church.

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](https://www.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.
- The opportunity to shine His light in the community.
- Students that continue to come to ETG every Wednesday and hear the Gospel.
- The life of the Albrechtice mission club and those students that desire to know more about Jesus Christ.
- Time to rest and rejuvenate with friends and those close to us.
- Official visa approval and green light for new GEO missionary Chelsea Irwin, who will be serving in Bohumín, CZ.

Pray that God would:

- Grant open eyes to see where He is leading.
- Provide more opportunities to share His Gospel.
- Show us the students in Havířov and Albrechtice who have received the gift of faith and now need to be disciplined.
- Provide unity among our church plant team in Havířov-Šumbark and that all would be moved into action in their own neighborhood.
- Rid the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



What's Up There?

The strong sounds of the organ resonated as students from our weekly mission club approached the entrance to the small Lutheran church perched up on a hill in the village of Albrechtice. (We normally meet in a room above the library closer to where everyone lives.) Inside the church lights decorated the sanctuary a bit more dramatically than on a Sunday morning. The organist played the beginning of Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor*, pastor explained everything in the church (and in connection, shared the Gospel with the group) and our band led a couple songs to get everyone involved. We headed into the fellowship hall for some schnitzel and potato salad (actually a quite common combination for Christmas) and enjoyed the rest of the evening playing games and chatting.

Many times people ask, "what's up there?" in reference to the quaint church perched up on the hill. So when the people asked, we thought that we better show them. Not only show them what's inside, but tell them the reason why we are gathered there. It is all because of our great God and His love and grace given for us through Jesus Christ.



Pastor Libor shares about what really happens inside the church.



The entire group eats their fill around one long table.

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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