

Blessings from Bohumín

From Chelsea Irwin, LCMS Missionary
Serving the Lord in Bohumín, Czech Republic



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Czech Words of the Month!

Thanks! And in Czech, Díky!

Thank you to all the pastors, congregations, bible study leaders, etc. My support raising experience has been absolutely wonderful.



Merry Christmas! And in Czech, Veselé Vánoce!

May God bless you this Christmas with good fellowship and remembrance of our Savior's humble coming.

Prayers Answered!



Left: Shortly after Thanksgiving, I received my approved visa in the mail. Thanks be to God for the answered prayer and the continuation of my deployment process!! I am set to leave the United States on January 6th, and I could not be more excited!



Above: My dad was a guest preacher on Christmas at A Mighty Fortress Lutheran in Seward, NE.



Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday to our Savior! It was a joy to be home with my family this Christmas. **Above:** Irwin family picture on Christmas Eve.

My Favorite Family Christmas Traditions!

- Decorating the Christmas tree together.
- Visiting the Durham Museum in Omaha, NE, and seeing the giant Christmas tree!
- Opening one gift on Christmas Eve, after church.

The Impact of a Gift



Above: Carolyn and I at Peace Lutheran Church in Columbus, NE.

I listened quietly as she responded to my words. Carolyn, a woman from my dad's first church in Platte Center, NE, had given me a financial gift when I was just thirteen years old. This gift was towards my first short term mission trip to Poland. I called Carolyn ten years later. I thanked her for that first gift and told her how God has led me to long term missions.

"From that first gift you gave, I have now been on the same mission trip ten times, and I am moving to the Czech Republic as a missionary with the LCMS," I said.

"Wow, really?" She chuckles.

"A gift can go a long way." I say, "And your gift changed my entire career path."

As we talked and laughed, there was a decision that we would get together before my departure. In December, we chatted together at Peace Lutheran Church in Columbus, NE, and Carolyn explained to her friends that when she got sick, I took her place on the team going to Poland from my church.

"She took my place ten years ago, and now look what happened!" Carolyn joyfully shared.

Gifts come in all different shapes and sizes, and sometimes it takes a while for us to realize the impact of a gift. I can not imagine what my life would look like without my previous mission experiences in Poland. As I added Carolyn's email to my newsletter list, I began to realize the depth of her gift. Not just a financial gift, but a new friendship, and prayer partner. Now I truly understand the impact of a gift.

This Christmas season we remember God's ultimate gift, Jesus. The ultimate gift that would die for us, and rise again that we might have life in his name.

What gifts have impacted you in 2019? What gifts can you reflect on, and thank God for?

Right: In July of 2010 I went on my very first mission trip to Jawornik, Poland.



YOU CAN SERVE WITH THE LCMS TOO!

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."

Thanking the Boss

Prayer Requests

Pray that God would:

- Give me strength, peace, and calmed nerves as I deploy to the field on January, 6th, 2020
- Bless my time with friends and family before I arrive in Bohumin.
- Open the ears of those in Bohumin to hear the Gospel as I begin ministry this January.

Prayers of Thanks!

Give thanks for:

- You, my prayer supporters and encouragers.
- The safe arrival of my visa! And the purchasing of my plane tickets.
- Christ, the ultimate gift we remember during the advent season
- A wonderful Christmas Holiday with my family
- The amazing and encouraging friends I made during this first support raising journey

There are two very important people in the picture on the right. One is my boss, Jesus, and the other is my very dear friend Gary Thies. Gary is the director of Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. Gary and I have known each other since 1997. I grew up going to Mission Central, hearing missionaries speak, and learning about our important task in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). I never thought I would be the person taking my picture with the boss (Jesus) in Gary's office, but God had some pretty specific plans for where He would send me after college.



Praise God for putting people like Gary in my life to share a passion and desire for international missions. As I head to the field and begin the Lord's work in the Czech Republic, I am excited and humbled by the opportunities God is placing in front of me. However I want to challenge you, my prayer warriors with these questions. Where is God sending you? And what is He sending you to do?

God continues to bless this ministry through your prayer and financial support. Prayerfully consider partnering in God's mission to the Czech Republic and Eurasia through a financial gift.

Send checks to:

LCMS International: P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
(Write "Irwin/Czech Republic" on the memo line),

You can also send your support to the wonderful people at:

Mission Central
407818 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Give online: lcms.org/irwin

Contact Chelsea Irwin: chelsea.irwin@lcms.org

