



What's happening?

By a favorable providence and the amazing care of OIM, the Eurasia Team, and all of *you*, we arrived in Latvia before international travel restrictions. The transition could not have gone any smoother: Your prayers blessing us each step of the way. Having settled into a routine, we busy ourselves acclimating and networking for Christ's kingdom.



COVID 19 in Latvia

Coronavirus has disrupted life in Eastern Europe as in the Americas. Classes at the Luther Academy transitioned online, while public gatherings—including church—are temporarily prohibited. Still, where the gospel is purely preached and the Sacraments administered according to the Gospel, there is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to forgive, justify, strengthen, comfort and encourage. Lent continues its movement toward Holy Week. Undaunted, we resorted to “home church” (pictured above), just as in the days of Saint Paul, inviting new friends and colleagues to join us. Bearing witness to immediate neighbors has become the priority, until normalcy resumes.



St. John the Evangelical Lutheran Church's first English Divine Service, Rīga.

At Home with Holy Communion

Last year we read Anthony Esolen's 2018 book, *Nostalgia: Going Home in a Homeless World*. In it, Esolen reflects on what gives us the notion of “home.” He contends, agreeably, that God has established within the world, particularly in families, ideas and sentiments evocative of our heavenly home with Him. In other words, the “homey” things of this world bespeak of the reality of our heavenly home and prepare us for it.

For months we have been “homeless,” not in an absolute way, thanks to the love, generosity, and support of those aiding us on the journey to Latvia, but with no place that we could call *our* “home.” Esolen, however, brought to mind the truth that no one feels more at home than around the table with the habits (rituals) of the family. Having sold our dining table and departed from the tables at Grace Lutheran (San Diego) and Immanuel Lutheran (Alexandria), the Lord has given us a sense of home at the altar of Rīga St. John (Sv Jana). Dedicated to the glory of God in remembrance of St. John



Harper Warren receiving Holy Baptism.

Harper A. Warren, daughter of Andrew and Alex Warren, was redeemed by Jesus Christ, in the presence of her godparents, Jack and Judy George. Born at just 27 weeks and a fragile 1 lb 9 ounces, Harper spent months fighting for life, with the love and aid of her parents. Christ was present for them throughout this trial.



Patiently awaiting transport from NJ to NY for the flight from JFK to Rīga.



In Tucson, Pr. John had met Anna's Wittenberg Academy teacher, Mrs. Emily Cockran.

Please Pray: (1) that all Christians would take this disruption to routine (and sequestering) to check on their neighbors and bear witness of Christ to those living closest to them; (2) for the health and welfare of those infected; (3) for the recovery of our financial systems; (4) that the Divine Service would resume worldwide for the spiritual good and welfare of all.

the Baptist, the thirteenth century church is built on the site of the bishop's palace where Dominican friars cared for the chapel and parish until 1523, when the Latvians embraced Luther's Evangelical-Catholic teaching.

Less than a year ago, St. John's began a Lutheran Mass in English on the third Sunday of each month. With our arrival and that of the Rev. Dr. Charles and Connie Cortright, the pastors at St. John's have welcomed us to expand that Divine Service to every week. Pray that this work reaches the growing English speaking communities in and around Rīga, which now has four English speaking schools, plus university curricula in English.



Virginia teenagers learn how to respond to the philosophical implications of Immanuel Kant with the truth about Immanuel Jesus.

Taking Every Opportunity

The parishes and families of the Lutheran church from one end of the country to the other have afforded opportunities to preach and teach the Word of God and see it applied. From conferences in Atlanta and Charlotte to seminars in Idaho and preaching in Massachusetts, there abides a clear desire for sound doctrine, coupled with an earnest devotion to the Lord who "works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28 ESV). All of this provided good training and the preparation of materials that will be put to use in Eurasia, along with the message the world needs to hear during this time of crisis and uncertainty: *Trust in Christ and there is nothing to fear* (cf. Matthew 14:27). Pastoral and church worker training opportunities being arranged here in Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Russia, and Romania.

Please Partner with us in this Mission

- Thank you for supporting the training of pastors and missionaries.
- Send tax-deductible contributions to: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, Iowa (memo-line must include Bombaro/Latvia)
- Give securely from any device www.lcms.org/bombaro.