

ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

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



Curriculum Prep

Our team of writers, designers and editors has been working on preparing a new English Bible Camp curriculum. A couple of years ago, we saw the need for an English language learner based curriculum that came from a Lutheran perspective. Thus, fellow missionaries joined together to develop this resource. This year, we've added more tools (such as a theme song), and we can't wait to share it with you! Download last year's curriculum (for free!): <https://blogs.lcms.org/2019/gods-gifts-english-bible-camp-curriculum/>



Working on arranging and recording the theme song for 2020's curriculum with my band, LiftUp.

Now Playing...

Movies. They entertain us, make us laugh and cry, provide a common topic, show us a different world, distract us, challenge us and, well, the really good ones make us think. Writers and directors recycle basic stories packaged with different characters, places and times. These repackaged ideas create beautiful depictions of life and so often connect directly to the lives we are living.

That's why for this semester, English Talk Group (ETG) chose to use the theme "Now Playing..." Each week students from the community come to practice English directed by a movie clip. Our watching leads to discussion (such as a clip from *The Shawshank Redemption* speaking on hope), and our discussion leads to sharing, the sharing of the Gospel.

Every week, students in attendance hear the message of the Gospel. God continues to send new students who have never heard this message of Christ crucified.

As we celebrate six years of ETG this month, join us in praising God for the ways He has used and continues to use this ministry in reaching out to the community. He is changing lives, one clip at a time.



Introducing the movie theme for the night at ETG. Can you guess the film from the emojis?



God sends new members to our family, English Talk Group. While the faces change, the message remains the same, Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (ESV).

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.
- Six years of ETG and all the students who have heard the Gospel through it.
- Our team of LCMS missionaries in the Czech Republic and around the world.
- Pastor Kaster and his wife Suzanne, who visit us and offer the Lord's Supper.
- New and upcoming projects for Gospel proclamation with the Silesian Lutheran Church .

Pray that God would:

- Open the ears and hearts of unbelievers that come to ETG and till the soil and plant seeds as they hear the Gospel.
- Guard and protect missionaries in the Czech Republic and around the world.
- Show us more of the students in Havířov who have received the gift of faith and now need to be discipled.
- Give wisdom as we prepare for next year in reaching out to the community in Havířov.
- Rid the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



Missionaries Encourage Missionaries

While our Czech missionary team serves in various cities around the country, God brings us together (usually around food) to celebrate the ways He works and to encourage one another. From gathering in Prague for Divine Service, to meeting in Olomouc for a meal and the Sacrament, to making pizza in my apartment, God provided an abundance of opportunities to be together in February.

Pastor Dale Kaster, LCMS missionary in Prague, brings us the Lord's Supper once a month to nourish us spiritually. We thank God for the sustenance He provides and for the care He gives.

Take shelter in the Lord and in each other. Surround yourself with those who encourage you. And continue to point each other back to the cross.



Gathering for lunch in Prague as a Czech missionary team following the Divine Service at St. Michael's Lutheran Church.



Saturday night pizza traditions continue, this time with LCMS GEO missionaries: Chelsea Irwin and Lucy and Peter Hoffmann. We gathered together one last time as a Czech Silesia missionary team before the Hoffmans finished their service as GEOs in March.

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:

Mission Central
407818 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Contact Benjamin: benjamin.helge@lcms.org

