

ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

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



A Visit to the Land of Enchantment

After six years, God reunited the Helge family for Christmas in Albuquerque. He blesses me each day with the support and love of family, even when being around 5600 miles away. And beyond my immediate family, God endlessly encourages me through my brothers and sisters in Christ in ABQ.

Thank you for a most excellent visit, for remaining faithful to the sharing of the Gospel and for pointing me back to Christ, the Savior of the world.



Baptized into the Family

Let me introduce you to the newest member of our family, Daniel Benjamin Jicha. Baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on December 8, 2019. Fifteen-year-old student, son, brother, friend, basketball player, encourager and now CHILD OF THE KING.

We rejoice in God bringing Daniel to faith through a combination of Christian teachers at school, a middle school English competition, English Talk Group, Lutheran friends and one-on-one conversations. Ultimately, we praise the Lord for filling Daniel with His Spirit and giving him this gift of faith and new life.

God reminds us all of our Baptism and what He does there each and every day. We beautifully heard in January of Jesus' Baptism by John. All the sins that laid in that filthy water, Christ took upon Himself. He went to the cross for our forgiveness, and we are now baptized into Christ. You, me, Daniel.

As Christ welcomes us in, He sends us out to share about this unshakeable hope God gives us. Daniel tells His friends of the gift God gives so others hear the Gospel. And God is working in their lives.



God showing Daniel with the gift of Baptism, new life, forgiveness, grace and so much more.

Be encouraged and reminded of the promise you have in your Baptism. This, no one can take away.



Friends and family join the celebration. Daniel witnesses to His friends pictured here, Honza and Tomáš.

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.
- The opportunity to visit family and friends in Albuquerque, as well as for rest.
- The Baptism of Daniel Jicha and the faith God gives him.
- The beginning of a new semester and continued open doors with schools in the community.
- The safe arrival of GEO missionary Chelsea Irwin, serving in Bohumín, CZ.

Pray that God would:

- Grant open eyes to see where He is leading and provide more opportunities to share His Gospel.
- Guard and protect Daniel and grow him in his faith.
- Show us more of the students in Havířov who have received the gift of faith and now need to be disciplined.
- Surround Chelsea with a strong community and use her for great things in Bohumín.
- Rid the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



Adding to Our Czech Family

After support raising, visa applications, packing, preparing and traveling, Chelsea Irwin, LCMS GEO missionary, safely arrived to Bohumín, CZ on January 16th! We rejoice in God sending another team member to the Czech Republic to work alongside the church here in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While Chelsea works in a different city and community, she serves with the same church body as myself, the Silesia Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession. Chelsea comes with an incredible amount of experience as she previously served at English Bible Camps in Poland for 10 summers.



Chelsea Irwin (standing in middle) along with Czech teammates welcoming her to Bohumín.

Join us in praying for Chelsea and for the people that she will meet in Bohumín. We

pray that she goes forth with boldness knowing that she is a messenger of the King. This is my prayer for all of you as well, that no matter where you

are, you go forth with the Gospel message and tell people about King Jesus.



Join our team and serve this summer in Poland! Just as God began Chelsea's international service in Poland, maybe He wants to use you in a similar way. Pray and consider serving in Poland with the LCMS this summer!

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

