



Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



February
2020

The Meaning of Life



Isabel and Richard, are joined by Martin
Damašek, our deacon

How does one start and keep one's focus on a topic as widely diverse as "The Meaning of Life?" Countless philosophers have drained countless ink wells as they have pondered this same question. People of less academic status have mulled over this same question too as they have sought to answer it in relation to their own lives. "What does my daily work account for? Why am I here? What does it matter to the world

when I am gone?" However, this is the topic suggested by our college-aged members for a mid-week discussion group meeting in the public setting of a local coffee house both to discuss our opinions but, all the more importantly, to find answers in the divinely-inspired book of Ecclesiastes.

As part of our outreach to the community, our students are seeking to bring their fellow students into the discussion; and even our deacon has reached out to a former student of his. This topic is spot-on in a city like Prague. This is the city of the famous author, Franz Kafka, and the political dissident, playwright Vaclav Havel. With its famous school, *Univerzita Karlova* (Charles University), founded in 1348 and functioning ever since, Prague is a city of deep thinkers. And we are seeking to add one more thought to all that thinking: Christ Jesus is the source of all true wisdom.

St. Paul wrote a lot about this very topic in the first chapter of 1 Corinthians; in fact, he so beautifully summed it up with these words: *Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.* (1 Cor. 1:24 ESV) But we are reaching back over the centuries to see how Solomon expressed this topic in his day. And what do we find there? The same Christ who always was God's wisdom!

Down through the centuries, Christians have been confessing Jesus Christ this way. He is, as the Nicene Creed confesses, "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God." So much for the modern spin on Jesus being a great moral teacher. He Himself bore witness to this appellation when He said, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.*" (Jn. 8:58 ESV) This great I Am has now taken on flesh and blood so that He might fulfill the Law and take its curse upon His holy shoulders and carry our sins to the cross.

It is only through this knowledge that our lives truly take on meaning. It is only through this knowledge that even our deaths are not an end but a temporary rest as we await the eternal kingdom of Christ. Christ first, Christ last, and Christ through every moment in between. He transforms our lives from meaningless toil and gathering of goods into being a life filled with praise to the God of grace and peace that the Bible proclaims. This is a message that the world needs. And we are here to proclaim it everywhere we can do so – from pulpit to coffee house! May God the Holy Spirit grant us all the gifts to do this wherever we have been placed!



Seal of Charles University

We commend you to Christ!



How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call;
To live according to Your Word
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear;
If worldly pressures fray the mind,
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

In what You give us, Lord to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You,
The cross You hung upon—
All You endeavored done.
"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"
Lutheran Service Book #853



We thank the Lord for all of the people and ministries that support us. This month, we especially give thanks for:

Immanuel Lutheran
Greenfield, IA

Saint John Lutheran
Sherburn, MN

Saint Paul Lutheran
Cambridge, NE

Our address in Prague:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Bubenečská 365/41
160 00 Praha 6
Czech Republic

The church address in Prague:
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
V Jirchářích 14/152
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Please, pray for our new discussion-group outreach to college students.

Thank God for Chelsea coming and thank God for the Hoffmanns' service here.

Pray for those we are reaching out to and who are being catechized, especially for Baptism.

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Our email address is
Dale.Kaster@lcms.org



Dale, Suzanne, Lucy, Chelsea, Peter, and Ben Helge enjoying some fellowship in Olomouc

to the States in March. However, we do give thanks that a new servant, Chelsea Irwin, has come from Nebraska to reach the youth of Silesia. So, our visit this month had a bittersweet feel to it, visiting the Hoffmanns for the last time, but thanking God for a new worker in our midst. God bless them all!

A Bittersweet Day in Olomouc

Part of our work here includes the regular visits to our workers in Moravia and Silesia (eastern regions of the Czech Republic). These dear people are working where there is no formal relationship between the LCMS and the area Lutherans. So, it is a privilege and joy to visit with them and to bring the Lord's body and blood to them. Since we have been here, Peter and Lucy Hoffmann have been working in Olomouc. But now their time of service is over, and they will head back



Martin Damašek, Dale, James Krikava, and Sorin Trifa in Fort Wayne, IN

Reconnecting in the USA

In connection with the work of training Martin Damašek to be a pastor, we attended the Theological Symposia held January 21-24 at the seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. It was a great few days of theological presentations and reflections. We thank God for this opportunity to further our theological abilities. It also afforded us an opportunity to reconnect with a lot of old friends and current colleagues. In the picture with Martin and Dale is James Krikava, Regional Director for Eurasia, and Pastor Sorin Trifa from Romania.

Happenings Here in Prague

We are always aware that we are here as a part of Christ's call to discipleship. And we thank God when and where that happens. Currently, Martin is catechizing a Czech lady, Jana, whose husband is Lutheran, but she has never even been baptized. We look forward to her entering into the church through Holy Baptism. Please, pray for her. In that same vein, we have been contacted by an Australian couple that are seeking Baptism for their little boy. It is our prayer this will be a lasting connection.

We are always welcoming new visitors. Some come and stay and some show up only once. So, we are sure to preach the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in every sermon and in every service. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit would gather here all the more people into the body of Christ, our Lord. May God bless our Lent, that we might all lift up the cross before the world.

We commend you to Christ, God's Wisdom!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic

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