

SERVING THE LORD IN

GERMANY

NEWS FROM PASTOR GARY SCHUSCHKE



January 2020

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A New Year in Germany!



It was a joy to celebrate the beginning of the new year in Germany. The scope of the celebration was something that I was not expecting. The city of Frankfurt provided an amazing firework display while bells rang out from the towers of all the churches along the Main River.

What surprised me was how much the people here love to shoot off their own fireworks as well. In nearly every neighborhood, in fact, on nearly every street, people put on their own fireworks display throughout the night. There were so many fireworks that the city cleanup crews did not bother with their brooms. They cleaned the sidewalks with shovels!

January also marked the beginning of another new year for me and the people of Trinity Lutheran Church. I arrived in Germany last year on January 12 and conducted my first worship service on January 20.

As I reflect on the last year, I cannot help but see the hand of God and to give Him all thanks and praise for His mercy and grace during this time of transition for both the members of Trinity Lutheran and me. It has been a joy to get to know the members of this congregation and to begin our faith journey together. It is also a blessing to consider what He has in mind for us as we serve together in this new year and in the years ahead.

I want to thank all of you whose support and prayers are making it possible for me to be here at Trinity Lutheran Church. You are our partners in mission as we seek to bring the Good News to the people of Frankfurt, the people of Germany and people all over the world.



God's Word in Our Own Languages



Our confirmation students have been studying the impact of the Reformation. Recently, we spent time talking about the importance of the printing press and of the early Bible translators. We took a few minutes to ponder what a miracle it is that what was once painstakingly printed, is now available on our cellphones.

They especially enjoyed reading these words out loud from William Tyndale's early work in English: "God soo loved the worlde, that he gave his only sonne for the entent that none that beleve in hym, shulde perisshe, but have everlastynge lyfe." The language changes. But the message never does. It is a true gift of God that we have the Bible available in so many languages. May we never take it for granted!



Planning for the New Year at Trinity Lutheran Church

Our church council gathered in the city of Langen, south of Frankfurt, for our annual all day planning retreat in January. We were pleased to welcome four new members to our church council this year.

We began with some activities to help us to get to know each other. This was followed by time together in the Word. Our study of Matthew 4 lead us to a deeper understanding of how God works in each of our lives and in each of the many roles in which He places us.

We then spent time talking about our two primary mission goals. The first is to reach out to the 750,000 people in Frankfurt and the 5.8 million people in the Rhine-Main area of Germany. The second is growing in our ability to carry the Gospel back to the more than 20 nations that our worshipping families call home.

Each for our committees set goals for this year based on our primary missions. We also spent some joyful time talking and praying about new areas to which God might be calling us to serve. We will review these goals during our council meetings throughout the year.

Praying for Each Other

Your brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for you! We know that you are praying for us, too. In your prayers please remember:

- All of us here at Trinity Lutheran. Please ask God to bless us as we continue to grow in our ability to share the Gospel with the people here in Germany and all around the world.
- For those who serve on our church council as we work together to put our recent planning to work in the life of our congregation and for the good of the Kingdom.
- The continued connection between Trinity Lutheran Church and the US Army Garrison in Wiesbaden. Please pray that God would use this to enable us to work together to care for His people.
- All those working in Bible translation all around the world.
- All of the missionaries in the Eurasia Region and their families. Please pray that God would work through each of us so that many more people might come to the knowledge of the truth.
- My family in the US. Both of my parents continue to have health issues. Please join us in offering prayers of thanks as my father continues to have positive test results. My family truly appreciates your prayers!

To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Gary Schuschke, you may send a 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 Pastor Gary Schuschke" Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/schuschke

Or, you can send your support gifts directly to our friends at MISSION CENTRAL, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034



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