



A local Czech company, Manufaktura, has plenty of hand sanitizer available.

BREAKING NEWS

The first confirmed case of the coronavirus in the Czech Republic was announced March 1 in Prague. Since then, the situation has been quite fluid as the government works to protect the Czech lands and the people who live here.

I am incredibly relieved that we have no shortages of anything yet—plenty of toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Though our grocery stores are very small, the shelves are full.

These changes are affecting how we adapt to work and ministry, as well as our daily living experiences. As things continue to change, I plan to give a full report in my March newsletter about what life has been like since the earliest announcement that the virus appeared in Prague.

In the meantime, feel free to keep in touch with me:

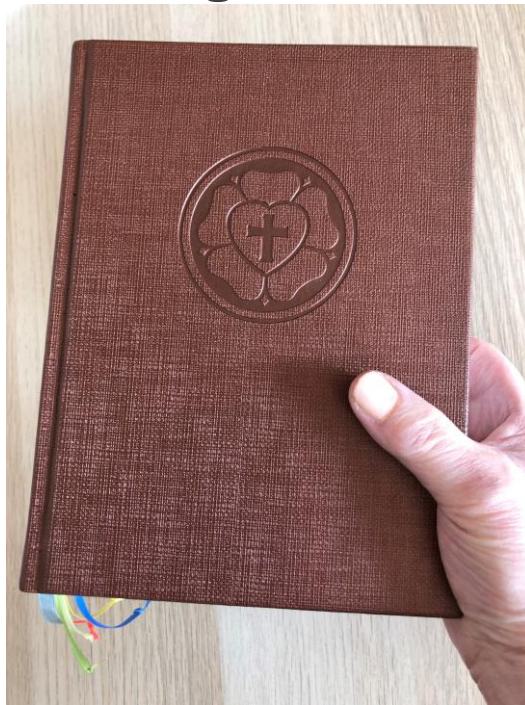
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Handing out Czech Bibles



“As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it.” Matthew 13:23 (ESV)

One of the challenges in sharing the Gospel is assuring the recipient can understand it. The first barrier, of course, is language. In addition to my work in Prague, I recently shared in mission teamwork with my co-workers for Christ in Germany.

As I was planning a weekend trip to visit a fellow LCMS missionary, she shared a need they had to reach a man who lives in the nearby refugee camp. This man comes to church every Sunday with the Middle Eastern refugees, but he is not from Iran or Afghanistan. He is currently learning German, but not yet fluent. And he doesn't speak Farsi or English, the other languages the ministry team knows.

It turns out his native language is Czech. He wants to be baptized and has a German Bible, but he struggles to

understand it. She asked if I would bring a Czech Bible and speak with him at church. Of course, I agreed to it.

I took a Czech Bible, along with a handmade bookmark from the LWML ladies, that marked some key verses. The Czech bible also includes the Augsburg Confession and Small Catechism in the back.

When we arrived at church, Ladislav was surprised when I approached him, speaking Czech. I introduced myself and gave him the Bible, showing him what I had marked. He was so thankful to have a Bible in his native language, not just so that he could finally understand it, but also to help with reading his German Bible.

After the service, he asked when I might return to help him more. I told him it might be a few months, but I hope to bring *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* in Czech. I am so happy when missionaries can work together for the good of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Ladislav, as he reads his Czech Bible and learns about Jesus Christ, His Savior.*
- *The coronavirus outbreak and that lives would be spared, especially those who have not yet heard the Gospel.*
- *The hearts of all the Czech people to be open to hearing God's Word.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Safe travels and the opportunity to use my Czech language skills in Germany.*
- *All of the donors who have helped fund the purchase of Czech Bibles to use in our ministry here.*
- *Medical and government workers that help protect us and keep us safe.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The Lenten season that reminds us to focus on Christ's journey to the cross for us.*



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

Signs of Spring



Crocuses bloom in February.

The climate here is more moderate than the upper Midwest. Whereas I used to start looking for signs of spring in March or April in Wisconsin, I was completely surprised to see the first crocuses so early.

As I looked around, I also saw some trees starting to bud, as well as some of the rose bushes growing leaves. I now see and hear lots of birds daily, some right outside my bedroom window.

While we did get a few dustings of snow in early February, none of it covered the ground completely and it melted by mid-day.

Another sign of spring here is the return of sunshine. Though the weather is milder, we get very little sunshine from November until springtime. Many people take Vitamin D supplements because of the lack of sunshine half the year.

With spring, also comes the return of the larger farmer's markets, generally starting the first week in March.

But more importantly, we began the Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday in February. And it is always exciting to know that Easter, the most glorious celebration of spring, is right around the corner.

This month we look to God as we seek His guidance for our lives:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke



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