



SERVING THE LORD IN

GERMANY

NEWS FROM DEACONESS KIM BUELTMANN

Deaconess in Deutschland
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Our most recent Baptisms during Advent!

NEW BAPTISMS

We always rejoice when new believers receive the gift of Holy Baptism. Most recently we celebrated this during the Advent season. We were expecting more baptisms over Easter, but unfortunately, the current situation is delaying that. We are working as best as we can toward keeping in touch with our catechumens so they can continue to learn and grow in God's Word, and we pray that we will be celebrating their baptisms soon once we are again able to gather together for worship!

Connect with me:

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 Deaconess in Deutschland

If you receive this newsletter by mail, but would prefer the email version, send me an email to let me know, and I'll gladly make the change

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send me an email with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

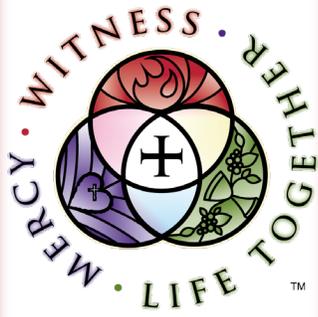
Mission from my Living Room



My living room is set up to record songs for our online devotions. I pre-record myself on the piano and have it play back while I sing and play guitar and visually record the song text in a PowerPoint on my computer, which I advance with a foot pedal.

The current situation in the world has been a challenge for all of us. COVID-19 is affecting us in Germany in similar ways that it is affecting you—restricted social contact, cancelled events, and more. For those of us in the mission field, it means getting creative and rethinking how we connect with others to share the Gospel. Missionary Pastor Hugo Gevers and I have been learning how to share devotions and worship services online. I keep busy creating videos of our hymns and sending them to Pastor Gevers. He then adds those to his devotions, Scripture readings, and sermons to share online with our people. We regularly post videos in Farsi, German, and English. If you are interested in viewing these, here is the website: <http://www.die-bruecke-leipzig.de/predigten.php> In addition to sharing the Word of God online, we make use of the telephone to text and call individuals, checking in to see how everyone is doing and encouraging them until we can gather in person again. Most of our people are doing well amid everything. A few who live alone are struggling with boredom and/or depression. Some who have jobs are disappointed to have to stay home from work right now and hope they will be able to return to their work after this is over. Those still in camps worry about living in such close quarters with limited hygiene products. A mother and daughter have taken on sewing masks at home. I was able to wave at them when I went by their apartment to pick up mine. I had them toss it to me from their window since the daughter has several health issues, and I didn't want to risk unknowingly exposing them to anything. So, the mission here in Leipzig continues, even from a physical distance. It will be a strange Holy Week, not being able to come together, but **may we all be encouraged by Christ's suffering, death and resurrection for us and remember that we are never alone because He is always with us.**

Musical Witness in the City of Leipzig



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our people to stay connected through this time of forced separation—most importantly that we all stay connected to God’s Word and continue to grow in faith.*
- *Refugees still living in close quarters with others in camps and housing facilities where they have a higher risk of illness.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The technology that allows us to worship together while apart.*
- *The increased time for reflection in God’s Word during this Lenten and Easter season.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *God showing His provision and care through each of you who faithfully support me with your prayers, encouragement and gifts!*



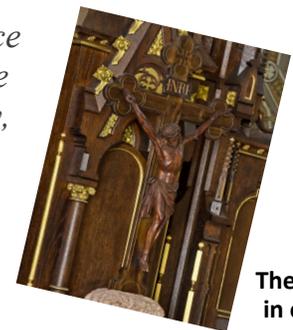
Our Persian choir at the Leipzig Intercultural Week concert

Late last year, our Persian choir was invited to sing in a concert as part of the city of Leipzig’s Intercultural Week. We joined together with a Ukrainian children’s choir and a trio from Syria to perform at a concert hall in the city center. We sang many original songs, as well as old Persian tunes with new Christian lyrics—all composed by church members. Many in the audience were visibly moved by the refugees’ singing. Since I had been asked to give translations of our song titles and summaries of the content of each song in German, everyone who read the program notes knew exactly what the Persians were so passionately singing about: ***the peace, hope, and salvation we have in Christ.***

Our closing song was a well-known German song of blessing, which we sang in both Farsi and German. This was an especially strong witness, as the refugees sang in their accented German of God’s care and protection through suffering, asking Him to shine His light into their lives and be near to them in difficult times. Knowing what those singing had been through brought tears to the eyes of some, as they heard the faithfulness of our God proclaimed in song with unwavering trust.

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.
Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)*

- *Deaconess Kim*



The altar cross in our church

To help Deaconess Kim continue to share the refuge we have in Christ with refugees, send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E - 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and include Bueltmann/Germany on the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online at lcms.org/Bueltmann or <https://missioncentral.us/bueltmann/> or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438.