

ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

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



COVID-19 Update

LCMS missionaries in the Czech Republic (including me) remain healthy, safe and continue to share the Gospel. The Czech government began reopening various shops, lifting previously banned gatherings and now allows for small groups to join together for worship. All this has been done as the curve for the country continues to slope downward. Everyone is still required to wear masks in public.

The LCMS cancelled all summer missions trips and currently all plans for missionary home service are on hold.

Wherever the Lord has you right now, pray and continue to pray for the entire world, for the church and for all people. Have peace, knowing that our true King and leader, Jesus, is still in control. In Him, everything is going to be all right.

A Different Easter

Church from the living room. A meal for one or a just a few. Quiet times of reflection and celebration. I imagine that we shared a similar Easter experience.

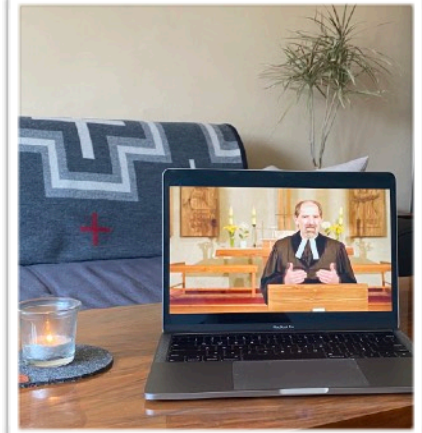
I normally invite around 10 people to church and then over to my place for an Easter lunch. And, as we sit around the table, we read the resurrection story, celebrating what Christ did for us. But, not this year.

However, I did celebrate with every Christian around the world. I saw God's goodness as I walked through the forest admiring His creation and the art of others. I ate a celebratory meal. I called friends to read the Gospel message with and told others to make sure that they heard the Good News.

And as I sat and thought more about it, this Easter wasn't so different after all.



On my table sits only one plate for Easter lunch, so different from years past.



Good Friday service online with the Silesian Evangelical Church of the A.C. (SCEAV).



Walking in the nearby forest (getting slightly lost), I see the trees coming to life and reminders of the Passion story on the path.



Serve with the LCMS

There are many opportunities to serve as a short-term or GEO missionary. The Office of International Mission continues to evaluate international service opportunities. Stayed tuned for updates and even virtual ways to serve.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

Join me in giving thanks to God for:

- You, my prayer warrior, supporter and encourager.
- The health and safety of our Czech and Eurasia missionaries.
- Technology and the means by which we stay connected.
- The Easter message and the life we have in Jesus Christ.
- New projects to share the Gospel starting this month (i.e. English Conversation Partners online).
- The gift of cooking and the various skills He has given each of us to share His Gospel.

Pray that God:

- Has mercy upon us and cures this world of COVID-19.
- Opens the ears and hearts of unbelievers that continue to hear the Good News.
- Provides a new space for our growing church plant in Havířov.
- Shows us more of the students in Havířov who have received the gift of faith and now need to be disciples.
- Encourages young men in the Silesian community to become pastors.
- Rids the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



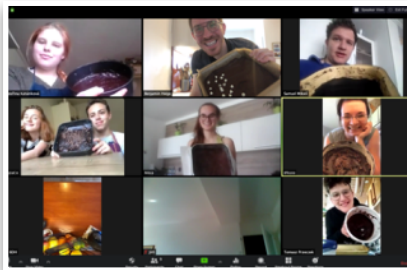
Reaching Out from the Kitchen

Having been slightly inspired by the food editors and recipe developers for the New York Times, I took to the kitchen to connect with people in Havířov and around the world.

English Talk Group Havířov-Šumbark meets every Wednesday (currently over Zoom). In order to stay connected with individuals from the group, we hosted Baking with Ben (also over Zoom), an hour and a half long baking experience, trying out a couple American style recipes. With great success, all kitchens



BTS view for Cooking with Missionary Ben.



Sharing some American recipes (brownies and carrot cake cupcakes) while connecting with English Talk Group over Zoom.



remained unharmed. We shared a common experience. And, each participant had something to share with their family.

And likewise, with many of you, my teammates and supporters, we spent a couple hours learning a basic Czech dish and having a conversation. (Thank you again to all who participated.)

Through these shared experiences and the sharing of the Gospel, I pray that God works faith in the hearts of all who do not know Him. As the Good News is shared, may all ears be open and understand what Jesus Christ has done for all.

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:

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