

ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

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



COVID-19 Update

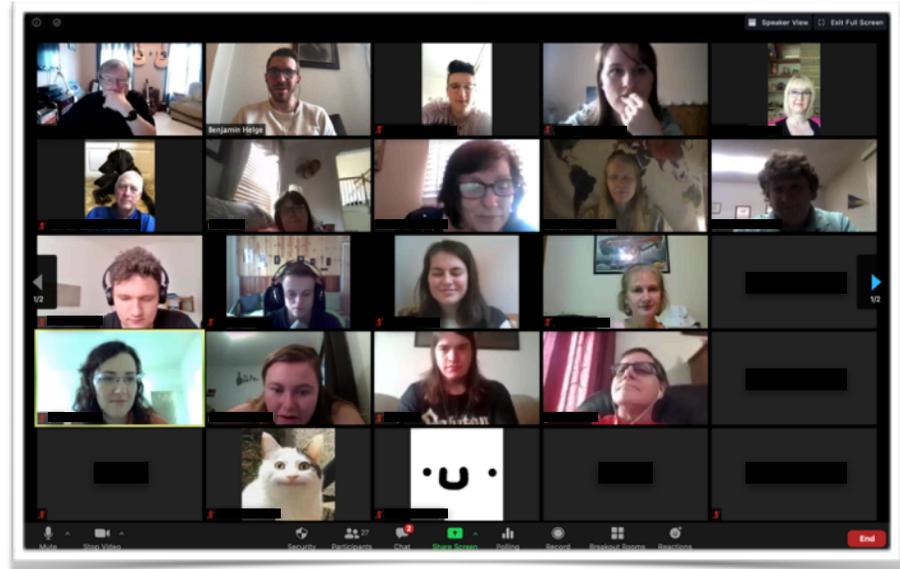
LCMS missionaries in the Czech Republic (including me) remain healthy, safe and continue to share the Gospel. The Czech government fully reopened all shops, and now allows for larger groups of 300 to meet in person. Everyone is still required to wear masks indoors but not outside.

My plans for missionary home service wait on hold as the LCMS continues to determine what is best in regards to travel. Thank you for your patience and understanding. I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

As you live in the hope of the resurrected King, King Jesus, continue to love your neighbors and take care of each other. And remember that in Jesus Christ, everything is going to be all right. Praying for you all.

Benjamin D. Helge

Distance to Our Advantage



Our screens might have looked very similar over the past month (or more). Little squares adorned with faces, random pictures or just names. Maybe you're tired of all the virtual communications. I get it. However, for the entire month of May, a new project emerged to encourage English conversation, support local outreach and share the Gospel.

LCMS volunteers served every Monday for five weeks as part of the English Conversation Partners pilot. Via Zoom, Czech students and teachers connected with LCMS native English speakers for one-on-one conversation centered around a theme. For an hour each week, participants met someone new while sharing about their own life and experiences. Volunteers were encouraged to share their faith and the Gospel message as the opportunity arose in conversation.

Now, as the world begins to open again for face-to-face interactions, we thank God for new ways to use virtual service opportunities. As we evaluate this pilot project in the coming weeks, I see God using this for His glory and the sharing of the Good News in the months and years ahead.

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 ability to gather again with friends, students, teachers, church members and strangers.
- The Internet and the ability to communicate virtually.
- LCMS short-term volunteers who served on the team for the English Conversation Partners pilot.
- The health of LCMS missionaries throughout the region.
- A new location for church plant and outreach activities to take place in Havířov-Šumbark.

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.
- Guides the city to approve our moving into the new space for our growing church plant.
- Shows us more of the students in Havířov who have received the gift of faith and now need to be discipled.
- Encourages young men in the Silesian community to become pastors.
- Rids the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



Heading Outside

Two meters between us. Face masks for all. And, hand sanitizer readily available. These measures serve their purposes, and we respect them. Yet, when we can be outside in the fresh air with very few limitations for in-person gatherings now, it seems like the only right choice. English Talk Group (ETG) Havířov-Šumbark met online for two months but gathered together for ice cream in the city center. Our meetings continue in various family gardens and yards allowing us to continue our conversations about life and Jesus Christ.



Impuls Club in Albrechtice gathers outside for sports and fellowship.

In the nearby village of Albrechtice, we also began meeting in-person with Impuls Club (an outreach for local youth). The first longer conversation I had with a teenager opened with his questions about the church, saints, sin and the Good News of Jesus Christ. People are hungry for the Gospel. And we are giving it to them.



ETG celebrates life opening up to the outdoors by enjoying a scoop (or two) of the city's best ice cream.

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:

Mission Central
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