SERVING THE LORD IN

GERMANY

NEWS FROM PASTOR GARY SCHUSCHKE

April 2020

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Easter Blessings!

Greetings and God's blessings to all of you from your brothers and sisters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, Germany!

One day, we will reflect on all the things that happened in the year 2020. I am certain that one thing we will remember is how different our celebration of the Easter Festival and season were this year. Here at Trinity Lutheran, we will remember many Easter blessings.

We, like so many of you, have been blessed to be able to offer our worship services on the Internet. We are blessed to have a member who produces video professionally. His gifts made it possible for us to gather at a distance while enjoying images of our church building and sanctuary that made it feel almost as if we were there.

We were blessed to be able to make something of a journey into the past. When this congregation began, their first cross in the sanctuary was one that stood on the altar. Over the years the altar has been moved toward the center of the chancel and the beautiful cross that you see below was put up on the wall. It turns out, we could not see this cross in our videos. So, we put the original cross up on the altar again. For many of our members, this has been like coming home. We were even blessed that the government allowed florists to open for a few hours during Holy Week so we celebrated Easter with lilies!

The greatest blessing has been that so many of you, literally from all over the world, joined us for worship on our YouTube channel: Trinity Lutheran Frankfurt. We thank God that He still makes it possible for us to reach the four corners of the earth. Together we celebrated the promise that Jesus Christ is alive and through faith in Him, we will also live forever. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever! I would like to thank all of you who are helping to make it possible for me to be here to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people here in Germany and all around the world at this unique moment in time!

Getting Ready to Gather Again for Worship!

We are very pleased that the German government is now allowing churches to gather for worship again. No surprise, this wonderful news came with many safety restrictions. This includes distanced seating, one-way traffic flow, wearing masks, having a specific type of hand sanitizer at all the doors, not using hymnals and not being able to sing together yet. We must also keep a record of everyone who attends.

As with most churches, it has taken us several weeks to prepare. We are pleased to tell you that we will begin to gather again on May 31st. Many of our members prefer to remain at home for the moment, so we will continue to offer our services on our YouTube channel as well (see above). Please continue to join us there.

Youth Group at a Distance

Throughout this time of pandemic, we have continued to show that distance cannot keep us from being together. Our youth group "gathered" recently on a Zoom conference. One of our faithful volunteers had the idea. Our youth enjoyed it very much.

We began by checking in about how they each were doing. Then they all shared something they liked about being at home. The most common answer was being able to sleep in! Still, the whole event was not just talking with each other. Believe it or not, our volunteer organized an at-home scavenger hunt for us to do.

She told us how long we had to find each item and what the item was. Then we had to find the item and hurry back to show it to the others on our screen. It was fun! We searched for such things as favorite stuffed animals, quarantine snacks, samples of homework and photos of our families. In the picture above, you can see that we all had to find our quarantine masks as well. It was a blessing to see our young people encouraging each other, laughing with each other, and of course praying together. When asked, all of the youth said that they would like to do this again.

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 those whose lives have been impacted by COVID-19. Please join us in praying for those who have lost loved ones, for God's healing grace on those who are sick and all those who are vulnerable in any way. We also ask you to pray for all those in government, health care and all areas of public service.
- Our efforts to reach our congregation and community by means of the Internet. We are praying that God would use these efforts to reach those who might not yet have faith in Jesus Christ.
- For us and all congregations as we prepare to gather again for worship. Keep us safe and bless our time together.
- For all families, especially all those who are working and studying at home at the moment. Please pray that God would bless them with peace and extra patience.
- All of the missionaries in the Eurasia Region and their families. Please pray that God would continue to work through each of us so that many more people might come to the knowledge of the truth.
- For me. I have had some dental work recently. Please pray for my continued healing.
- My family in the US. Please join me in praying that they continue to stay well during this time of quarantine. Please also pray for my parents as they both have other health concerns. 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:

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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*

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