



I enjoyed the return of my favorite farmers' market in Dejvice.

FARMERS' MARKET

The farmers' markets usually run weekly from the first week of March through the end of November. This year, because of the quarantine, they didn't open until the first week in May.

I was excited to see so many of my favorite vendors return with their vegetables, fruits, honey, eggs, breads, cheese, meat and handmade soap.

We all had to wear facemasks, but everyone is used to it, so it's not really a big deal. One of the vendors even complimented me on mine and thought it was beautiful.

I noticed that many of the people also wear plastic gloves, at the market and on public transportation. Hand sanitizer dispensers and hand washing stations were also abundant and may just be our "new" normal.

Please stay safe, and feel free to keep in touch with me:

- *Mail:* My address in Prague is Nad Želivkou 475, Prague 6 – Nebušice, 164 00 Czech Republic



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org

Time for Prayer



Our church in Prague resumed services in May, with restrictions, such as wearing facemasks. Our entire mission team from throughout the Czech Republic attended one of the first services.

So, what can you do when life changes drastically because of a virus? Pray.

How do you continue working with technology when you are unsure about the effectiveness? Pray.

How do you deal with social isolation and loneliness when you can't leave your home? Pray.

How do you care for loved ones far away infected with COVID-19? Pray.

And how do you try to make sense of all that is happening in the world these days? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

April quarantine

April certainly was a month of prayer, reading Scripture and living life online. Classes that I taught and meetings I attended happened over Zoom. My Czech language classes continued through Skype and Microsoft Teams.

Everybody in Prague had to stay home, and wear facemasks to get groceries, or risk being fined. Borders, schools and businesses closed throughout April.

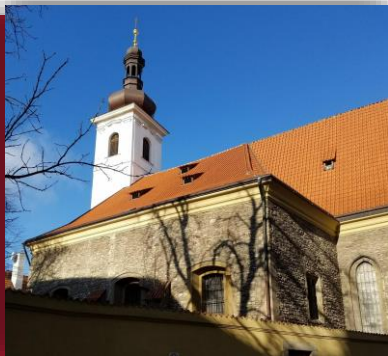
Though different than previous years, I want to thank so many of you for broadcasting your church services, especially during Holy Week and Easter. I'm glad that I could worship with you, sing along with the hymns, and pray with you.

One of my prayers was that God would spare the lives of so many Czechs who haven't yet heard the Gospel. Praise to Him for answered prayers.

May re-opening

The farmers' markets reopened in early May, followed by church services and small gatherings up to 15 people, as well as hair salons and all stores, except malls. We still had to wear facemasks until the end of May; they are no longer required outside.

And now that we are able once again to witness to people face-to-face—to show our neighbors the love of Christ—we continue to pray that hearts will change. All those lives spared here now have the chance to know Jesus Christ as their Savior, and to never fear death again.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- My continued fluency in the Czech language.
- Tomáš, a young Czech man who recently received his first Czech Bible from me.
- Greater expansion of technology and media to reach the Czechs with the Gospel.

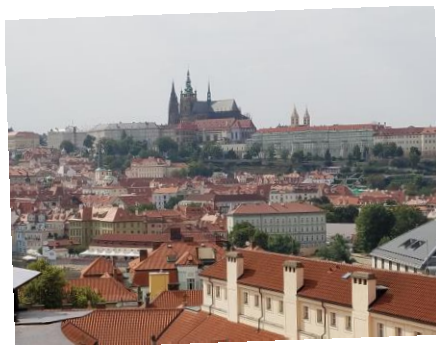
GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The lifting of many quarantine restrictions that allows greater witness for Christ.
- Your support, prayers and encouragement through emails, cards and letters.
- The scientists and researchers working on COVID-19 vaccines.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Sparing the lives of so many Czechs, so they may hear the Good News.

My Two Homes



Rooftop view of the Prague castle.

In one of my conversations with a family member in Wisconsin, we were comparing life with COVID-19. I still consider Wisconsin my home state, though I live in the Czech Republic. So, I decided to look at the impact of the virus in both locations.

As far as size, the land mass of Wisconsin is more than twice the size of the Czech Republic—169,639 square kilometers compared to 78,865 square kilometers. But the Czech Republic is more densely populated, with twice as many people in half the space—10.65 million people here and about 5.8 million in Wisconsin (2019 data).

Different locations handled the pandemic quite differently. Within days of the first confirmed case here,

we had to stay home, and wear facemasks whenever we left our homes for groceries or brief walks in parks. I'm not sure what happened in Wisconsin, but I know there were lines at grocery stores, in-person voting, and protests, mostly with people not wearing facemasks.

Here are the numbers affected by COVID-19 after three months:

WISCONSIN

Confirmed cases: 15,863

Tests/1M: 37,224

Deaths: 517

CZECH REPUBLIC

Confirmed cases: 9,052

Tests/1M: 38,985

Deaths: 317

You can see that the testing was about the same, but it saddens me that my friends and family in Wisconsin have been more greatly affected than we have in the Czech Republic. You continue to be in my prayers for your health, safety, and God's comfort during this difficult time.



This month we remember we are never alone in our journeys:

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke



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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Mark checks "Wrucke-Czech Republic Support."

Or, you can make checks payable and send to:

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Gifts can also be given securely online through my online giving page at lcms.org/wrucke or at <https://missioncentral.us/wrucke/>