

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) are healthy, safe and continue to share the Gospel. The past few weeks have brought some resurgence of the virus to the area where I live. Gatherings have once again been limited to 100 people and face masks are still required.

My plans for missionary home service remain on hold. However, God's gift of the Internet allows us to stay connected. If you would like me to share with a small group over Zoom or another platform, please write me a message.

Continue to love your neighbor. Pray for this world. And be encouraged, the Lord and Savior of all loves you and cares for you. Praying for you all.

Benjamin D. Helge

Comes with the Sun

Finally peeking its face out for longer than a brief moment, the sunshine brings changes to schedules, where we meet and what we do.

English Talk Group (ETG) shares the Gospel with students now on gardens, in parks and in connection with other outings. With our church plant in Šumbark, ETG and congregation members will be day-tripping to the Beskydy Mountains at the end of July to build up these relationships.

Impuls Club (Friday night outreach for youth) in Albrechtice takes a break for the summer as the team gets ready for another Impuls mission week at the end of August. Our final gathering had our most open discussion time with questions from non-believers about Jesus, heaven and life with the one true God. The Spirit is working and pointing people to Jesus.



ETG enjoys a garden party and celebrates the beginning of summer.



Our last Impuls Club for the school year met, but not without great conversation and questions. With a room full of "seekers," we reviewed everything that we learned about Jesus this past year. The club resumes once school begins.



A local farm sends a crate full of produce and other goodies depending on what's growing at the moment.

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. Stay 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 sunshine and warmer weather.
- Sending much needed rain to water this country.
- Conversations and questions that came up each week at ETG and Impuls Club.
- The health of LCMS missionaries throughout the region.
- Connections made through Czech lessons and the language becoming easier.

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. (We should have an answer by July 15th).
- Blesses upcoming local English camps and summer youth retreats.
- Encourages young men in the Silesian community to become pastors.
- Rids the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



Forever a Czech Student

This is coffee. I have coffee. I usually don't put milk in coffee. In English the word coffee never changes. It remains the same no matter where it's located in the sentence or how it's being used. The word for coffee in Czech is *káva*. Here are those same sentences (but this time, in Czech). To je **káva**. Mám **kávu**. Obvykle nedám mléko do **kávy**. The word changed slightly in every sentence. The joys of the Czech language: seven different cases plus gender.



All dressed up for my first day of Czech class. It seemed obligatory.

So while I've lived in the Czech Republic for about six and a half years now, I still continue to learn and practice. For four days this past month, I participated in an intensive



Just one of the pages of the quick reference guides I have for Czech grammar. (It has seven cases in total.)

Czech course, four hours each day. My weekly lessons with my Czech tutor continued as well. And by the grace of God, each week I am able to communicate more effectively (and with fewer mistakes). All this is so that His Gospel is clearly shared with the Czechs in Czech.

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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