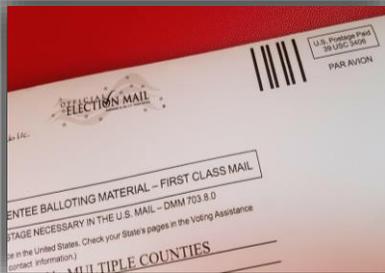




Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org

Non-traditional English Class



I sent in my voter registration materials for the 2020 election.

REGISTER TO VOTE

I have voted in every single presidential election since I turned 18 and this year will be no exception, even though I live outside the country.

The process to register is a little bit different for those of us who serve abroad. Thankfully, our US Embassy in Prague has been very helpful with instructions and timelines. So, I went to FVAP.gov and filled out the forms for my county. Then I dropped off the official election mail at the US Embassy, where it will be delivered to the US Postal Service through diplomatic mail.

Once the materials are received by my county board of elections, I will be registered and then wait to receive my official ballot.

If you haven't registered to vote yet, please do it, especially since it will be easier for you in America.

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.



Our non-traditional English class met via Zoom to wrap up the first 16-week session.

The common language among Lutherans in the Eurasia region is English. Unfortunately, not many Czechs within the ECAVvČR (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic) speak English well enough to connect and be understood by their colleagues from other countries. So, part of my job involves teaching English to church leaders in Prague.

The first non-traditional English class started in February and just wrapped up the first semester. One student needed to study for his pastoral exam, and another student got stuck in a different country while traveling right before the quarantine, so the class size shrunk. We also realized that proficiency was quite different among the students. In fall, I will teach two different levels of English classes to accommodate all the students.

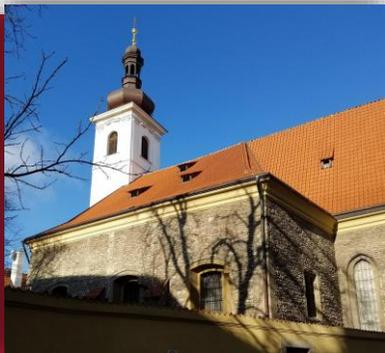
Bringing Christ to class

“It’s fine to learn English with stories about John buying apples at a store, but when you learn to talk about your faith, it means so much more,” a student commented at the end of the class.

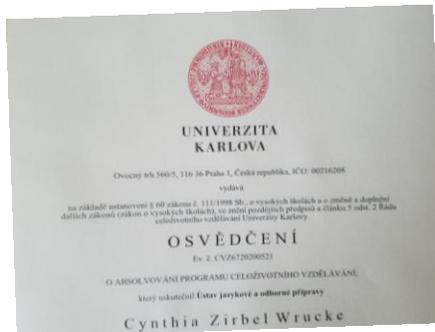
During the course, we read a short Christian book and students found Scripture passages that related to each chapter. Group discussion questions and short writing assignments focused on topics such as sin, living as a Christian in today’s world, witnessing to others, forgiveness, spiritual warfare, and facing trials and hardships. By the end of the semester, I could see significant improvement among the students.

One of the most difficult things about English for non-native speakers is pronunciation, especially for Czechs. It’s difficult to know how to pronounce “wound” or “read” when you need to consider the context of the sentence. Czech words have little symbols over letters to help, e.g. peče (baking) or péče (caring), so there is no guessing.

I enjoyed seeing the students gain confidence in their English capabilities. But I also learned a lot during the course myself, such as how Czechs construct sentences. Most importantly, I learned that despite our language challenges, we are truly brothers and sisters in Christ, trying to share His light with those still living in darkness.



Charles University Semester Ends



TECHNOLOGY

In addition to learning Czech, we also learned to use technology for the online classes that started in March. We first used Microsoft Teams, but due to hardware incompatibility with some students, we moved to Zoom for our weekly “live” classes. Homework assignments still resided on Teams, and we used email to communicate with the teacher and fellow students.

FINAL EXAM

As the semester neared the end, many schools in Prague started re-opening, with restrictions. We hoped that we could meet again in a classroom, especially for our final exam. But that wasn’t possible to maintain social distancing. So, we finished the course online.

The final exam had three components: a 30-minute grammar test, a 20-minute writing exercise and a 15-minute speaking test with the teacher. The timers started as soon as you logged in, and you had to finish each part to get the log-in for the next component. A week after the test, I got an email informing me that I could go to the school office to pick up my certificate. Praise the Lord, I passed the final exam and the course.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- My father, who is hospitalized.
- Safety and protection in my work, as our country reopens without facemasks.
- The ears and hearts of the Czech people to be open to hearing and receiving the Gospel.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The abundant rain and sunshine for our growing season.
- Technology that allows us to continue work in challenging circumstances.
- The missionaries and pastors faithfully serving in the Eurasia region.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- His unwavering love for us.

My course completion certificate

I learned a lot during my 16-week Czech language class at Charles University in Prague. The spring semester started in a classroom on campus, but after a few weeks, the quarantine required online instruction.

At an intermediate level of study, only Czech was used for the entire 3 ½ hour class. One other American attended the class; he has lived in Prague for seven years. We also had a British actor, who is married to a Czech woman. All the rest of the students were native Russian speakers. Russian is a Slavic language; English is not. So, I learned a lot of Czech, even to understand what I was hearing. We had weekly homework assignments, and we did Czech presentations in PowerPoint for the class.

This month we remember God’s faithfulness:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mark checks “Wrucke-Czech Republic Support.”

Or, you can make checks payable and send to:

Mission Central
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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/>