



August 2020



Zane at the Luther Academy

MEET ZANE

Most every organization has its “unsung heroes” whose quiet work and dedication keep things going. Zane (pronounced, ZAH-neh) is ours at the Luther Academy here in Rīga.

Zane works in the Academy’s office and is the person who can answer questions or find out the answers from others. She knows schedules, people, students...and English! (This makes her especially important to me!)

During the COVID shut-down last semester, it was Zane who facilitated my online class with students, one of whom was far away in Brussels. Without her help, my 1 Corinthians class would not have been able to go forward.

It is in 1 Corinthians 12 that Paul uses his metaphor of the body to show how Christians all contribute to the health and work of the church, the Body of Christ. As Paul says there, “The body does not consist of one member but of many” (v.14) and each part plays the role God gives for the good of all.

We thank God for all the blessings He provides by people like Zane who serve in Jesus’ name.



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charles.cortright@lcms.org

August: “Here I Stand Sit”

Sojourn in Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Wittenberg. As a Lutheran and a historian, the lure of this little city is irresistible. Connie and I just finished two weeks at the “Old Latin School” in Wittenberg where the International Lutheran Center is housed



Sitting in at the Old Latin School

as I filled in for Dr. Wilhelm Weber, the Center’s director. A few yards away from where I sat is St. Mary’s, the *Stadtkirche*, where Martin Luther regularly stood and preached. It was a privilege to preach in the Center’s chapel on Sunday and to meet and speak with visitors. I ❤️ Wittenberg!

We used some free time to do some visiting of our own, driving down to Leipzig to see

Connie and Kim in *die Brücke*

our LCMS colleague, Deaconess Kim Buelmann. Kim works with Middle-eastern refugees at *Die Brücke*, “the Bridge,” an outreach center connected with

the *Lukaskirche* in Leipzig. Kim works in German and Farsi to bring Jesus to the refugees she meets.

The Livonian Lutheran Project

I haven’t just been sitting around, however! July and August are always busy months of preparation for fall and for other projects. In the latter category has been the creation of a website for our work here in Rīga. As



Our new website homepage

work has progressed on our project of creating an English-language bachelor’s theology curriculum in partnership with the Ev. Lutheran Church of Latvia, Dr. Bombaro and I decided we need an online presence. Our new site is The Livonian Lutheran Project. The homepage talks about the project and about an introduction to theology seminar we are launching in September to generate interest and attract potential students for the bachelor’s program. Check out the site for yourself! www.thelivonianlutheranproject.com

Thanks be to God

Both of us are in good health and we give thanks to God for His continued blessings and for the privilege of serving Him here in Eurasia. We also give thanks to Him for you, our supporters and partners-in-mission.

Here we stand (or sit)
together in Christ!

-Chuck and Connie Cortright



On the docket for this fall...

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thank God for His continuing blessing on our supporters for their faithfulness.
- Pray that our Lord would continue to bless the work of missionaries everywhere.
- Pray for the recovery of churches everywhere and for the ability for our people to return to God's house and to the regular use of the Means of Grace.
- Pray for reopening of our church's schools and for schools everywhere.
- Pray God to give consolation and hope to all those isolated because of lockdowns, because of age, or because of distance from family and friends.
- Ask the Lord to use these uncertain times to turn hearts to the certainty of Christ and His love for them.

LORD, in Your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

WITNESS ALWAYS



LUTHER ACADEMY COURSE

Latvia and the Baltics have not been as hard hit by the COVID crisis as other parts of the EU and as a result, we are hopeful that regular, in-person courses can begin in September. The fall semester is scheduled to begin September 2.

God-willing, therefore, I will be again teaching a regular course via translation for Latvian pastoral and diaconal students. I have been asked to teach **Introduction to Dogmatics**. This course introduces students to the principles and practice of doctrinal theology in confessional Lutheranism. The course will also examine the doctrine of Holy Scripture and the role and use of the Bible in Lutheran doctrine. Preliminary information has it that there are nine new students this year: five pastoral studies men and four church-worker studies students.



INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

As noted on p. 1, an introduction to theology online course will also be offered this fall. This course will be taught in

English to individuals interested in exploring Lutheran theology with an eye toward possibly enrolling in the Bachelor of Theology English curriculum when it begins (God-willing) in 2021. Five students from Italy, Switzerland, and Silesia have registered so far. May God bless this new venture!

PALANGA PASTORAL CONFERENCE

COVID forced the cancellation of the normal April pastor and musician conferences in Palanga, Lithuania. An alternate June date also had to be abandoned. But the conference is set to meet again in mid-October.

I am working currently on a series of presentations for the pastors on the Book of Job, focusing especially on Job as a type of our suffering Savior. The musicians' conference that follows will feature presentations by our region's associate business manager and his wife—both are talented vocal artists—Michael and Nancy Morizio.

May God bless these opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship!



WE ARE ALWAYS THANKFUL ...

that we have your prayers and partnership with us as we serve here in the Eurasia mission region.

We keep you in prayer during these troubled times and ask that God will bless and keep all of you in health and safety.

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of
the sea...*

**The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.** -Ps 46:1,2,7 ESV

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