



A watermelon from my family's garden this year

## Connect with me:

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I'd love to set up a time to talk with you!

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For my devotions, I enjoy using the Lutheran Study Bible so I can read the corresponding comments for the passages I am studying. Recently, I've been going through 1 Thessalonians and as I read the comments for chapter 3, the phrase "we are the apple of His (God's) eye" struck me. Of course I know that God loves us and all people so much that He would send His Son to die in our place as John 3:16-17 reminds us. But the phrase, "apple of His eye" put things in a different perspective for me. To be the apple of someone's eye means that we are cherished and loved above all else. And that's how God sees us, His children! I always find it a bit humbling when I am reminded that the great and mighty God of the universe loves and cherishes little ol' me.

To be loved and cherished by God is not just a passive thing that we remember every once in a while. God shows that we are His cherished people first and foremost by sending Jesus to be our Savior. But it doesn't stop there. God displays how much He loves us by sending His Holy Spirit to live within us, helping us live lives pleasing to Him, by encouraging and strengthening us through any and all difficulties. God's active love for us shouldn't then just stay passive within us. It should overflow from us into the lives of others through the fruits of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23 ESV).

I was also reminded of a song from my early Sunday School days, "Bananas for the Lord" by Jules Riding. It starts out: "He's a peach of a Savior, He's the apple of my eye..." God doesn't want to be the only one cherishing and loving us above everything else. He wants us to do the same with Him. Take the first commandment, for example: "You shall have no other gods before me" (Deut. 5:7 ESV). We are to place God above everything else, to cherish and love Him. God doesn't want us to fall short in this - through His great love for us, He gave us the Holy Spirit to strengthen us and encourage us to love Him above all else. So, as we go about our day, let's not forget to keep God the apple of our eye.



Zooming with an Intro to German class! They were zooming with me from an iPad set up on the front table

Photo credit: Tallie Schroeder

### **Please Pray for:**

- the refugees affected by fire and the coronavirus in their camps
- the pandemic to get under control soon so that countries reopen their borders

### **Give Thanks for:**

- God who cherishes us with an everlasting love
- You and others who pray for and support me in serving the Lord

I had the pleasure to speak with an Intro to German class via Zoom earlier this month. After telling them what I plan to do whenever I reach Germany, I walked with them through translating the Lord's Prayer from German into English. Even though I couldn't be with them in person, it was such a delight to share with them about God's mission work in Germany, as well as sharing with them my joy of the German language! If you have a class, a small group, or a Bible Study and would like me to speak with them, please let me know so we can schedule a time!

I am also excited to be able to help out fellow missionary, Cindy Wrucke, in Prague. She is leading an English Conversation class on Zoom, and I get to help her facilitate! There are short-term mission volunteers from the US who are paired with non-English speakers and help them practice their English skills in conversation. This is a great way to serve in short-term missions even when you can't go to other countries due to borders being closed!

### **Learning Farsi**

Farsi learning is slowly continuing! As I learn the alphabet, some grammar lessons are thrown into the mix as well. In my mind, grammar is one of the most important things to learn about a language, especially at the beginning. So I tend to focus much of my attention on making sure I understand the grammar well, and, at this point in my study, I find Persian grammar difficult to understand. Please pray that I don't dwell on the fact that I haven't mastered the grammar yet and that I focus instead on mastering the alphabet and continue to work on pronunciation.

Here are some new words I learned:

**Flower** = گل (gohl)

**Chair** = صندلی (sandali)

Thank you for joining me on this journey of serving refugees in Germany. God has truly blessed me by placing you in my life!

Prayerfully consider partnering in sharing the Good News of Christ with refugees in Germany through a financial gift. Send Checks to:

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

OR

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E - 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod and include Krause/Germany on the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online at [www.lcms.org/Krause](http://www.lcms.org/Krause) or <https://missioncentral.us/Krause/> or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438