



BERRY NICE

One of the upsides of our trip back to the US will be getting to see our newest grand-daughter, Clara.

We were recently treated to this mugshot of her basking and bathing in glory amid a bowl of berries. She wears them well!

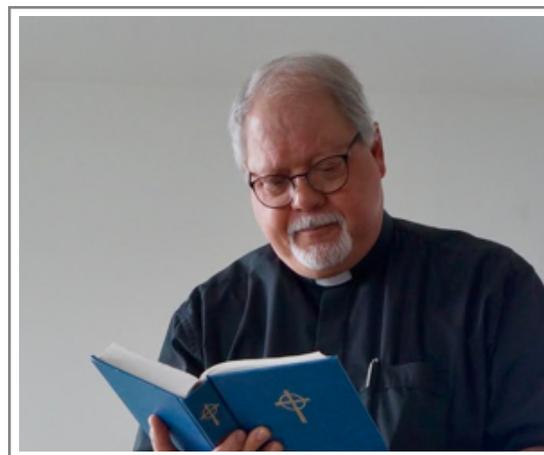
God is good and He blesses us in all our ways...

...sometimes He give us berries.



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A letter to my supporters, my friends



Dear friends in Christ,

Connie and I are heading back to the United States for me to see my cardiologist. I have had heart issues in the past and a recent routine check-up here in Latvia has made it clear that I need more extensive tests and evaluations. After talking with my supervisors in the Eurasia region and at the Office of International Missions (OIM) in St. Louis, it seems best to have this done in the U.S. We fly out on November 14 from Rīga.

We are praying that the tests and examination will reveal a good course of treatment and that we will be able to return to Latvia in December as planned, but we also are leaving all this in God's hands. The "dictum of James" is very much on our minds and in our hearts.

"...you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

[Jas 4:14–15 ESV]

As far as the current work goes, I will be able to continue our online Introduction to Theology class from the U.S. The amazing thing about our project is that it is portable. I'll just be online Monday mornings in the US rather than in the evening in Riga! Besides seeing a different background behind me, our 40+ students will be listening and watching the presentations at the same time they have been used to watching. (We're in the middle of our look at church history right now.)

THANK YOU for your kindness and support. Please keep this in your prayers and ask our Lord to allow us to return to the field soon. The Lord be with you in the month ahead and as we enter a new Church Year of His grace.

Yours in our Savior's service,

Charles Cortright



Prayer in the Luther Academy

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

...our trip to the US, for the doctors as they care for me, and for God's gracious healing that we may return to our field of service.

...our missionaries here in Eurasia and throughout the world.

...for all the students we have been able to serve online in our various classes. May the Word given to them bless them in their faith and equip them to share that very Word with others.

...those who support us and all our missionaries. We give thanks for the many individuals and churches who have given in our support. Your sacrificial gifts and prayers are what keep us in the field and sustain us in our service.

...God's blessing on the church as we enter a new church year in Advent to faithfully proclaim Jesus the King.

Meet Jēkabs Jurdžs

One of the fundamental challenges as an American living and working in Latvia is the language barrier. Latvian is a difficult language:

Jo Dievs tā pasauli mīlēja, ka deva savu vienpiedzimušo Dēlu, lai ikviens, kas viņam tic, nepazustu, bet tam būtu mūžīgā dzīvība.

(That's familiar John 3:16.)

When it comes to our work, we're fortunate that some of our colleagues at the Rīga Luther Academy know some English, but we've been "communicationally challenged" nonetheless.

Until recently.

Jēkabs Jurdžs is a Latvian Lutheran who just joined the staff at the Luther Academy to be the English Program liaison for us. He comes highly qualified. Besides being a faithful Lutheran, Jēkabs just returned from studying theology at Cambridge, England and speaks impeccable English. He's also knowledgeable in technology and a bit of a workaholic. Jēkabs is working on updating the Academy's website (we'll be folding the Livonian Lutheran site into it) and on the administrative matters needed to enroll students officially in the bachelor of theology (B.Th.) program for future pastors and church workers. He's already become invaluable.

But how do you say his name? At our first meeting, he told us how to teach Americans to say it at first try: Just pretend you're from Chicago and say, YEA-Cubs!

Works for me. Welcome Jēkabs!



Jēkabs Jurdžs

Introduction to Dogmatics/Малые пророки

Introduction to Dogmatics is finished! I have been teaching this course to Latvian students via a translator since September first as a face-to-face course, but then as an online course due to COVID.

We were able to meet for the oral final examination on November 11 in small groups less than 10 (including myself and the translator)—masked and socially distanced, of course; we also had one examination online. (I think even the computer had a mask on!)

Likewise, a brief online intensive course on the Minor Prophets (Малые пророки) was recently completed for our Russian partners in the Ingrian Lutheran Church. I was in Rīga; the translator was in St. Petersburg; and the students were from Moscow and the Mongolian border!

Have internet...will teach.



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