



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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September 2020



Confirmation Resumes

Greetings and God's blessings to all of you from your brothers and sisters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, Germany!

We have resumed our confirmation classes as school has begun again. Many of you may remember, from previous newsletters, that we ended our spring confirmation classes by means of conference calls. We are very happy that we have been able to gather on-site again.



Somehow the discussion is just better when we are face to face. This year's class seems especially engaged in their lessons, and they ask the kind of questions that keep their instructors and pastor on their toes!

These boys are a small picture of the population of the city in which they live. They all speak two languages fluently and one of them speaks three. He speaks one language at school, another in church, and still another at home. Our instruction takes place in English. But when they have a few free minutes, their conversations take place in German. Thank you to all of you who are making it possible for me to be here to share the Gospel with families like these.



Faithful Leadership

Does this picture seem strange to you? Where are their masks? What about social distancing? Actually, we took this picture of Trinity Lutheran's church council at our planning retreat in January. Who could have ever imagined how much things would change since then? But many things have not changed. One of them is the faithful service of these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Since March, we have learned how to carry on the business of God's church in many creative ways. We have held online meetings, have stayed connected by email, text and phone and recently we have even been able to work on some projects on-site again. During this whole time, it has been a blessing to see how our leaders have continued to care for the needs of our members today while also always looking forward.

At our last Zoom meeting, we discussed many details of business and even worked on plan for holding our annual congregational meeting and electing officers electronically. Our leaders greatly appreciate your prayers. We are praying for you and your congregations at this time as well.



Joyfully Ringing

We are very happy to have begun the rehearsals of our handbell group again. In our area of Germany, choirs are not able to meet and congregations are still not able to sing during worship. However, we are able to conduct our handbell rehearsals in a way that both fits the government regulations and allows us to prepare musical pieces for worship. We record the songs once they are ready. Then we add them to our YouTube worship services and provide them on the screen for our on-site services.



While handbells are well known in the US and in Great Britain, they are very uncommon in Germany. In recent years, our handbell group was able to do a tour in churches on the German Baltic coast, and last year they were even featured in the main Frankfurt newspaper. It has been a joy to rehearse together again and to be able to have this very special music as part of our worship and witness to our community and the world. If you would like to hear our handbells, they will be playing songs for both our Reformation and All Saints Day services. Find us on YouTube at *Trinity Lutheran Frankfurt*.

Praying for Each Other

Your brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for you! We know that you are praying for us, too. In your prayers please remember:

- All those whose lives have been impacted by COVID-19. Please join us in praying for those who have lost loved ones, for God's healing grace on those who are sick and all those who are vulnerable in any way. We also ask you to pray for all those in government, health care and all areas of public service.
- Our efforts to continue to minister to our congregation and community by means of the Internet. We are praying that God would use these efforts to reach those who might not yet have faith in Jesus Christ.
- Us and all congregations as we are gathering again for worship. Keep us safe and bless our time together.
- Our congregation as we continue confirmation and Sunday school classes.
- All families, especially all those who continue to work and study at home. Please pray that God would bless them with peace and extra patience.
- All of the missionaries in the Eurasia Region and their families. Please pray that God would continue to work through each of us so that many more people might come to the knowledge of the truth.
- My family in the US as both of my parents continue to have health concerns.

To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Gary Schuschke, you may send a 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 Pastor Gary Schuschke" Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/schuschke

Or, you can send your support gifts directly to our friends at MISSION CENTRAL, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034

<https://missioncentral.us/schuschke/>



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."