

MCMILLERS TO ITALY!

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

As the year comes to a close, the McMiller family continues to work on our visa to Italy. We were blessed that after a five-year immigration process to become an American citizen, Yanela received her American passport. Even though many governmental processes are slowed by Covid, please join us in our prayers that we arrive in Rome in good time so that the Confessional Lutheran Church in Italy can be blessed by their first Lutheran pastor.

Although we cannot move to Italy until we have our visa, I was able to make a short trip to sit in on a week long class in Wittenberg, Germany. This trip allowed me to meet the 4 Italian students in person and to participate in the Divine Service. For one of the Italian students, it had been over a year since he had received Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of his sins.

Another blessing of my trip was being able to participate in the ordination of a Romanian pastor named Pastor Adrian. Adrian had spent many years of his life as a Roman Catholic priest but after being married was defrocked. Later in life, he came in contact with our Lutheran Church in Romania and, after many years of instruction on Lutheranism became our third Confessional Lutheran pastor in Romania.

Finally, I feel the need to give an update on what I spend more time on than anything else— learning Italian. After countless hours of study, I was able to write and preach my first sermon in Italian for our Saturday online Zoom service. Since that date I have written two more sermons in Italian. Many thanks to the four students in Italy for all their help proofreading my improving Italian!

In the first sermon I preached to the Italian Zoom group, the text was on the rich man in Mark 10 and Christ's command to sell all that he had and give it to the poor. In my sermon I reflected on how Christians, indeed, are called upon to support the work of the Church, the preaching of the Gospel and almsgiving to the poor... but only the Son of God has fulfilled this commandment. Only Christ Jesus, the true missionary, on the cross, sold all that He had to give us the poor all the riches of heaven. All we can do is give back a small portion of what He has given us.

In His name,

Rev. Tyler, Yanela, Lia and Alessia McMiller

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Thank you for your prayers and support!