



## Reunion in Fort Wayne

also there to meet with my regional leadership and the Office of



Revs. Terry Hoese, Andris Kraulins and Archbishop Vanags with me at CTSFW

International Missions (OIM) to work out plans going forward for my service as a theological educator in Eurasia and in other regions. At 67, I will not be returning to live full-time in the Eurasia region, but the plan is to use me for short-term, intensive courses where needed. The Asia Region Director, Rev. Charles Ferry and I were able to talk about possible service in that region under this arrangement.



Archbp. Vanags and LCMS Pres. Harrison

In the meantime, I am slated to travel back to Palanga, Lithuania in April to teach at a conference of the Lithuanian Lutheran pastors as plans for other teaching trips are maturing. May the Lord bless this work!

- Charles +

**A**s the proverbial crow flies, it is about 4500 miles from Rīga, Latvia to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. On the other hand, that same crow would have to go about 300 miles from our home to CTSFW. The crows were busy this month! Connie and I drove to Fort Wayne to attend the annual Symposia at CTSFW January 18-21, and a delegation from the Ev. Lutheran Church of Latvia (LELB) flew to the event. It was a delightful reunion: Archbishop Jānis Vanags and Rev. Andris Kraulins, the LELB secretary for Church Relations, were there, but we also (finally) met Rev. Terry Hoese of Michigan who has been visiting Latvia for years. Prior to the Symposia, he and I had only been in email communication.

Being in Fort Wayne, we were also able to be reunited with our former colleagues from the Czech Republic, Freeman and Susie Rohlfig. The



Connie with Freeman and Susie Rohlfig

Rohlfings retired from mission service in Olomouc, CZ, to Fort Wayne—the opportunity to reconnect with them was also a blessing.

### But down to business...

Our reason for going to the Symposia was not just social, of course. Besides attending the sessions of the conference for their own sake, I was

Thank You!

Today was “newsletter day” and as I sat down at my laptop to start, I received a notification of support by a congregation. It’s not a daily occurrence, but it does happen often throughout the month. As a result, it is hard to express how much it means to us to have the support and prayers of so many congregations, LWML chapters, and individual brothers and sisters SO often, SO regularly, and SO generously. I wish I had more ways to say Thank You.

But where variety lacks, I do hope our sincere thanks nonetheless comes through. This little corner of Jesus’ work would not be happening without the faithful partnership we have with you.

Thank you, too, for reading our letter each month! It means a great deal also to know that folks are checking in on our news and reports. So...

THANK YOU!



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# Dear chaplain, please pray for...

**F**or good or ill, the pandemic has changed how we interact with other people. The field I serve is, I suppose, “virtual” in that I cannot meet with the students of the English Studies program face-to-face, and yet we have come to know each other as brothers-in-Christ, fellow baptized-believers of Christ’s body, the Church.

Every Monday I gather with them online as their chaplain. It’s 10:30 AM (CST) for me, but 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, and even 10:45 PM in their various time zones. Mushtaq, one of our Pakistani students, always greets me with, “GOOD MORNING-GOOD EVENING!” It always makes me smile. Before beginning our service together, there are greetings shared, questions about health, local weather and family inquiries—all in the context of the camaraderie of our shared faith.

We look out at each other on Zoom, the screen broken into individual boxes with our names and the video of our faces—so distant and yet close. It is amazing to see in the arrangement of the boxes countries and continents in jumbled array: Africa next to Italy, the Baltics bumping up against Pakistan, America next-door to Nepal.

This is my flock and they have gathered to hear the Word and to pray before starting a new week of classes.

We usually “do” Vespers or Evening Prayer from the *Lutheran Service Book*. There are readings and a sermon, but most of all there are prayers.

We have the arrangement of sending in petitions in time for me to include them on the slides that are “screen shared” for us to follow. The prayers are as they should be: prayers for the Church, for our governments, for daily bread. But they include specific prayers, too, for blessings on those teaching and those taught, for God’s blessings and mercy on family members of the students, and for help and perseverance in the difficult task of balancing work and school and in learning in English. Lately, we pray for peace in regions where war is looming.

These prayers and the prayers the Church raises everywhere are the work of Church in response to Jesus’ own invitation. It is a privilege to serve in this corner of the kingdom as a chaplain.

—Missionary Charles Cortright

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Rev. Dr. Christian Tiews, Rev. Dr. David Preus, and Rev. Jerry Lawson as they serve as instructors this month for the English Studies program.
- our students in the program for perseverance and for keeping the “long view” of ministry in their countries.

Give thanks for:

- the arrival (after much COVID tribulation) of the Rajeks in Latvia where Dr. Rajek will work as a theological educator.
- God’s blessings on our students and teachers as the plans and programs of the English Studies program continue to develop and mature.
- God’s blessings via the many supporters and “pray-ers” of our mission.

*(May I repeat this from last month?)  
Do you get our letter mailed to you?*

We send out nearly 450 letters each month by email and U.S. mail. If you get our letter via U.S. mail, please consider switching to the emailed version, if possible. Besides being more cost-efficient for us, you will find the quality and sharpness of the pictures and print is far better. If you wish to switch, just send a test email to [charles.cortright@lcms.org](mailto:charles.cortright@lcms.org) and I will place your email address into the e-mailing list. Please note, I only use it to send the newsletter or letters of thanks; I do not share or give out addresses to third parties.

-Charles +



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