

# MONTHLY CZECH-IN

December, 2021

From Chelsea Irwin, LCMS  
Missionary  
Serving the Lord in the  
Czech Republic and  
Central Europe



## BACK TO THE FIELD



## CONFERENCE TIME!

In December I had the privilege of traveling to Wittenberg, Germany for the LCMS International Short Term Coordinators Conference. We spent our time learning new tools, sharing ideas, and brainstorming new ways to involve volunteers just like you! It was amazing to join this group for the first time in my new role as Coordinator of Volunteers for Eurasia. I learned so many behind the scenes tasks that my colleagues engage in to prepare for volunteers to serve in their regions. This conference was a great way to return to the field and rejuvenate my passion for working with volunteers.



A group picture on our last day of the conference. Check out more on the next page!

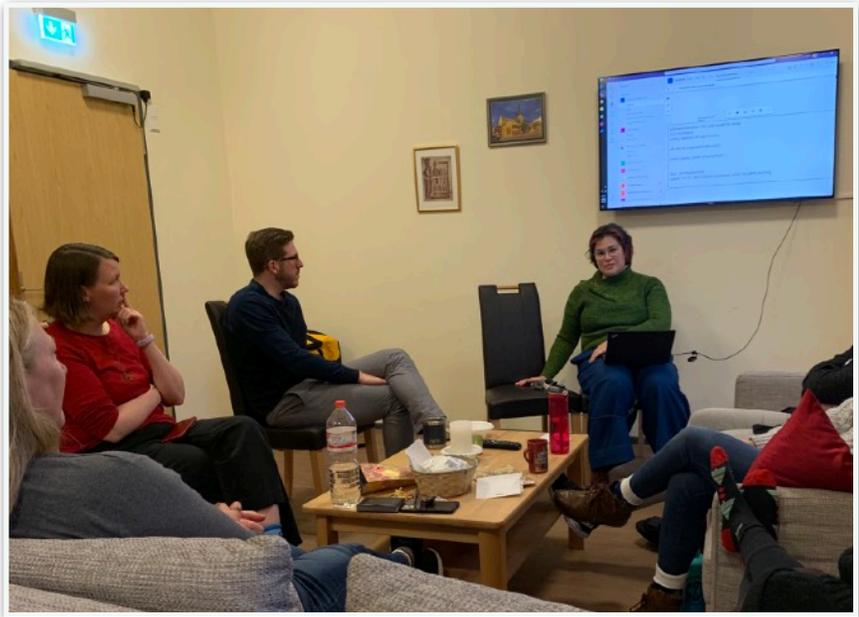
**Above:** Standing next to the display table with a map of Silesia. Prayer cards, pictures of my church and cookies! The cookies were made by a very kind member of our church, and are made to resemble traditional Czech Christmas cookies (cukroví).

Before I headed back to the Czech Republic after home service, I had one last presentation. On December 19th, I visited my home church Holy Savior Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. After sharing a couple stories with the congregation, we headed to the narthex for fellowship and cookies. Many people came up and pointed on my map where their ancestors were from, or where they had served in the military.

The members of Holy Savior were so supportive and encouraging of international mission! I am continually surprised by their encouraging cards, emails, and phone calls. They are truly some of my biggest prayer warriors. I loved conversing with them about my experiences, and hearing how they are serving God's Kingdom in their own communities.

It was a blessing to be with my home church one last time and to share with them the exciting work that God is doing in the Czech Republic. What a special way to wrap up my home service before going back to the field.

**Right:** Each member of our conference took a turn giving a presentation about a topic that pertains to coordinating volunteers. In this image, Erin Alter shares about some of the software we use to carry out various tasks of coordinating volunteers.



**Below:** During our time in Germany, we visited the missionary team in Leipzig. We met with missionaries Kim Bueltmann and Rachel Krause as well as their team member Pastor Hugo. What a joy it was to learn how God is working in Germany. Visiting other missionaries and seeing how they serve helps unite us and allows us to pray directly for each other's needs in our various fields.



**Above:** In another seminar, missionary Steph Schulte shared first aid kit tips.



**Left:** While we were visiting Leipzig we had the privilege of participating in an English service where Pastor Hugo gave the sermon. It was encouraging to be in a worship service with so many of my missionary colleagues.

## YOU CAN SERVE WITH THE LCMS TOO!

There are many opportunities to serve as a short-term or GEO missionary. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

## PRAY

- For all volunteers who are signing up to serve with the LCMS in 2022
- For our new missionary, Hayden Rensner as she adjusts to life in the Czech Republic.

## GIVE THANKS

- For you, my prayer warriors and encouragers
- An encouraging conference with the other volunteer coordinators.
- For safe travels throughout the last couple months of my home service.

## COMMUNITY



The missionary community is unique, and many times we only visit with our colleagues online. Since we are spread out in so many different countries, it is difficult to meet each other in person. Typically when I see the people above, they are all in little squares on my computer. I thank God for this opportunity to meet these colleagues in person, and share not only conference materials, but also the highs and lows of missionary life. God has taught me a lot about the importance of community in the past couple years. My colleagues are some of my biggest encouragers and Christian mentors. Praise God for the blessings He has provided through my career as an international missionary with the LCMS. Please continue to pray for all of the volunteer coordinators in each region of the world that God would bless the work that they are doing.

God continues to bless this ministry through your prayers and financial support. Prayerfully consider partnering in God's mission to the Czech Republic and Eurasia through a financial gift.

### Send checks to:

LCMS International: P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861  
(Write "Irwin/Czech Republic" on the memo line),

### You can also send your support to the wonderful people at:

Mission Central  
407818 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

**Give online:** [lcms.org/irwin](https://lcms.org/irwin)

Contact Chelsea Irwin: [chelsea.irwin@lcms.org](mailto:chelsea.irwin@lcms.org)



