



A view of St. Mary's church in Torgau the church in which Katharina Luther is buried

Students and faculty of the Riga Luther Academy – English Studies Program (formerly known as the Livonia Lutheran Project) in Riga, Latvia came together for one week of intensive study in Wittenberg, Germany the first week of November. After several months of helping to coordinate this event, I was able to meet many of the students and faculty in person. To end their week in Wittenberg, we took a trip to Torgau – a city full of history. Many Protestant German princes banded together here in Torgau against the Roman Catholic German princes. This is also where Luther wrote the Torgau Articles for the Protestant princes. Luther's wife, Katharina, died here and is buried in Torgau's St. Mary's church. It was such a pleasure meeting the students and LCMS missionaries who have been called to teach at the seminary! Check out this link if you want to learn more about the English Studies Program:

<https://international.lcms.org/livonia-lutheran-project-lifts-off/>

Connect with me:

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I'd love to set up a time to talk with you!

To be added or removed from this mailing list, send me an email with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Earlier this Fall, our outreach center, Brücke, was blessed to receive a new kitchen from an older German member of our congregation. When you move apartments in Germany, you can either take your kitchen with you or buy a new one (if the previous renters/owners take their kitchen with them). The kitchen in Brücke has needed to be replaced for a while. It was a wonderful gift for this woman to give us her old kitchen when she moved into a nursing home. Pastor Gevers and I took a day in mid-November to begin the process of organizing the center with the new kitchen finally in place!



The first Persian meal made in the new kitchen



Waiting for the Thomaner Boys Choir to begin their concert inside St. Thomas Church

Please Pray for:

- Continued prayers for the students and faculty/staff of the Luther Academy as they all work to bring the Good News of Christ to the ends of the earth
- Continued prayers for all refugees around the world as they strive to find safety and peace in their new countries

Give Thanks for:

- Give thanks that we are still able to hold in-person church services despite the high Covid numbers here in Germany
- You and others who pray for and support me in serving the Lord

There are so many cultural opportunities to experience here in Leipzig, and we try to incorporate times for our Persian friends to experience the culture of their new home, too. We were able to take a group from our outreach center to hear the famous Leipzig Thomaner Boys Choir as they sang in Johann Sebastian Bach’s church, St. Thomaskirche. The music was beautiful, and the Persians seemed to really enjoy it as well!

Nativity scenes are always a bit more stylized than what actually happened when Jesus was born. However, I loved the fact that in this nativity scene from the church in Chemnitz, Baby Jesus has His arms outstretched, ready to embrace all of us with His love. I think this is a great reminder during the darkest months of the year that Jesus, the Light of the world, is here to shine that light into our lives. It’s also a great reminder, for me at least, of other times when Jesus is depicted with His arms outstretched - namely, when He was on the cross to pay for all our sins. May we all be reminded in this new year of all the wonderful things God has done and continues to do for us.



Wednesday coffee hour at St. Lukaskirche with people from the neighborhood



Thank you for joining me on this journey of serving refugees in Germany. God has truly blessed me by placing you in my life!

Prayerfully consider partnering in sharing the Good News of Christ with refugees in Germany through a financial gift. Send Checks to:

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E - 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod and include Krause/Germany on the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online at www.lcms.org/Krause or <https://missioncentral.us/Krause/> or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438