



Knit hats match the one worn by "krteček" for sledding.

## HOME SERVICE

My very first home service visit was with my 2-year-old grandson, Owen. Being so far from home, our in-person visits are few and far between, though we Facetime often. I treasure each moment we spend together.

When we Facetime across the ocean, we usually spend part of the time reading books together. In the Czech Republic, and much of the rest of the world, a cartoon character as famous as Mickey Mouse is named "krteček," or little mole. Of course, I have sent and read some of these little mole books. One of the books was about little mole going sledding and he wears a very colorful knit hat. Since I thought there might be enough snow in Wisconsin in February, I knit identical hats for us to wear and brought a little mole hand puppet along as a small gift.

While I was disappointed with not enough snow for sledding, I was thrilled with how cute Owen looked with his new hat and the fun we had playing indoor games.



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[Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org](mailto:Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org)

## Czech Church Plans for Year Ahead



**Rev. Dominik Žbanek posts church information on the community bulletin board outside the church in Plzeň.**

In January, we welcomed two new pastors to the ECAVvČR (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic) churches in Prague and Plzeň. The Czech congregation at St. Michael's in Prague welcomed Rev. Tomáš Živný as its pastor and Rev. Dominik Žbanek began serving the Czech congregation in Plzeň. Both pastors were called by their respective congregations last fall.

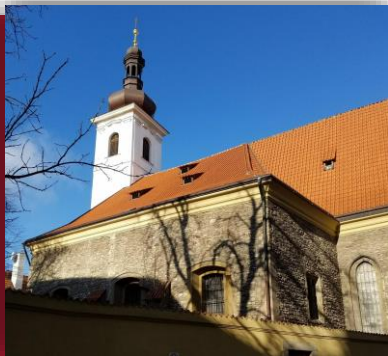
Our third Czech pastor, Rev. Martin Damašek, currently serves the English congregation at St. Michael's in Prague while their pastor is out on medical leave. Rev. Žbanek and Rev. Damašek both continue to serve the church plant in Varnsdorf, about 2 ½ hours north of Prague. Having these mission-minded pastors accept their calls with the ECAVvČR is an answer to prayer.

I met with the pastors and church leadership early this year to discuss upcoming plans for my support of their work at each location. The main focus continues to be mission outreach and bringing the Gospel to the unchurched in the community.

In Prague, Rev. Živný and the congregation leader, Juraj Laššuth, expressed gratitude for your support that allows me to work with them. Together, we will work to increase the number of church members through various efforts, such as further developing the church website, increasing social media, holding special events and distributing Bibles in the area surrounding the church. In addition, we are working to welcome visitors to church services with information that helps them understand the liturgy.

The outreach in Plzeň, located about an hour from Prague, will focus more on reaching the large number of university students who live there, as well as families with children. Pastor Žbanek is setting up a new fellowship hall in the city's center where we can hold Bible studies, meetings and special events, since the church is quite small and only rented for church services.

Please pray for the pastors in their new roles and for our work together to reach the Czech people with the Good News.



## You Are Invited



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Safe travels during my home service.
- Our Czech pastors, Dominik, Tomáš and Martin, for strength and perseverance as they serve in their respective parishes.
- The people of Ukraine that God would preserve them from harm during the war.

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The joy of families, especially children and grandchildren.
- Czech pastors to serve in our ECAVČR churches in Prague and Plzeň.
- The financial donors and prayer warriors who support the mission work in the Czech Republic.

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many blessings He bestows on us.

*Peace Lutheran Church in Neenah, WI hosted my first home service mission presentation Feb. 19-20.*

Please plan to join me at one of these locations for a mission update presentation this spring, while I am in the US for my planned home service:

- Feb. 27, 8:15am** – St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Conover, NC
- March 2, 5:15pm** – Christ Lutheran Church, Hilo, HI
- March 6, 9:30am** – New Hope Church, Waikoloa, HI
- March 12, 6pm and March 13, 8am** – St. Mark, Janesville
- March 16, 10am and 6:30pm** – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sheboygan, WI
- March 20, 9:15am** – Shepherd of the Hills, Onalaska, WI
- March 21, 6pm** – LWML, Good Shepherd, Appleton, WI

- March 27, 9am** – Christ Lutheran Church, Wausau, WI
- March 29, 1pm** – Mission Central, Mapleton, IA
- April 2, 8:30am**– LWML Zone Rally, Plover, WI
- April 3, 9am** – Faith United, Gillett, WI
- April 10, 8am** – St. John, Portage, WI
- April 21, 10am** – Pella, Waupun, WI
- April 23, 8:30am** – LWML Zone Rally, Burnett, WI
- April 24, 9:15am** – Good Shepherd by the Lake, Stoughton, WI
- May 1, 9am** – Peace, Arbor Vitae, WI
- May 4, 10am** – Zion, Fairwater, WI

For more information, please contact the church offices where I will be speaking. Thanks for walking with me on this mission journey.

*This month we remember God’s presence in our lives:*

**The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.**

**Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)**

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke



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](https://lcms.org/service). Click on “Service Opportunities.”

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Mark checks “Wrucke-Czech Republic Support.”

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Gifts can also be given securely online through my online giving page at [lcms.org/wrucke](https://lcms.org/wrucke) or at <https://missioncentral.us/wrucke/>