



andrew.fedder@lcms.org

Easter in Bulgaria and Greece

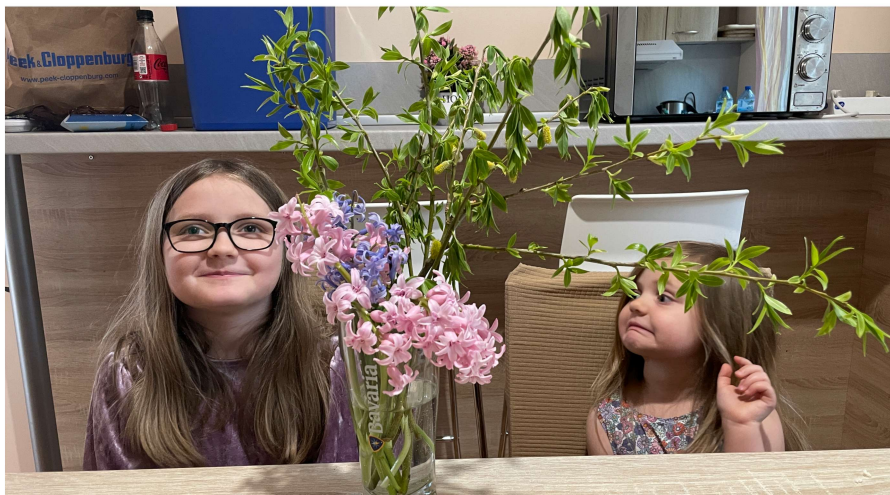


Charlie testing his egg in Greece

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Balkans they have different Holy Week and Easter traditions than we do in North America. We experienced two this year. First in Bulgaria they don't have palm leaves to wave for Palm Sunday, so they wave fresh cut willow sprigs. They also weave them into wreaths to show that they are Christians.

Second everyone gets a single Easter egg and you take turns hitting your egg against others. If it cracks, you lose, otherwise you move on until only one egg is left. Beatrix had the strongest egg this year and was crowned the Easter queen.



Beatrix and Rosalind enjoying a Holy Week bouquet in Sofia

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia. I hope and pray that you all had a blessed Holy Week and Easter. Ours was full of work, travel, and most importantly full of God's grace.

In the United States and Canada, we take it for granted that there will be a church service for us on Easter. Here in the Balkans, where our churches are spread out and we don't have enough pastors yet, it is not always the case. This Easter I wanted to make sure that our congregations in Sofia, Bulgaria and Katerina, Greece were able to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. I pray that one day they too will be able to take it for granted that Word and Sacrament ministry will be available on Easter and Christmas and every Sunday.

To make this trip even more special I brought Megan and the

kids with me. They had yet to meet the saints in Sofia or Katerini.

Unfortunately, things did not go smoothly as we began the trip on Good Friday. It was rough as we had issue after issue. But, the Lord God saw us through each of them, and I thank all of you that prayed for us. Your prayers were certainly heard. So that even when things were tough we knew that we were supported by our Heavenly Father and the church.

It started when our first rental van began to belch smoke from under the hood. We scrambled to find a replacement on short notice, and two hours later we secured one. Then once we crossed the Bulgaria border, both of our cell phones which should work in Bulgaria lost all service. Thankfully we had pre-programmed the route into our GPS app so we had directions.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The conflict in Ukraine and the church there.*
- *The refugees and all those that aid them.*
- *A member of St. Paul's in Bucharest who lost his job.*
- *Rev. Trifa and The Confessional Lutheran Church of Romania.*
- *The congregations in Bulgaria and Greece.*
- *All the men in the region preparing for the pastoral office and the deaconate.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Mission Central and all their amazing work.*
- *OIM and their support for us and all our missionaries.*
- *Cub Scouts helping our children to make friends.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support us.*
- *God's provision during our Easter trip.*
- *The many warm hearted and kind Bulgarians that helped our family.*



The Fedder family waiting for car repair in Bulgaria

Next in the mountains just before getting to Sofia, as the sun went down, our replacement van began to make horrible noises and started to jerk.

There are not a lot of services in Bulgaria on the roads, compared to the US. Working gas stations are far and few between, and WIFI is an even rarer commodity. But God was merciful and right in front of us was a gas station with working WIFI, and a repair garage! Two hours and much praying later, we were back on the road with the van running better than ever.

So many things seemed to want to stop us from having Easter service for Sofia and Katerini. But on the first Good Friday as Christ breathed his last, He defeated sin, death and the Devil.

.....Rescuing and redeeming us.....
from all of them by the power of His own precious innocent blood. We now belong to Christ, and He is in control. It was a long Good Friday for our young family but we arrived in Sofia safe and sound.

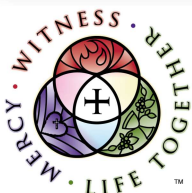
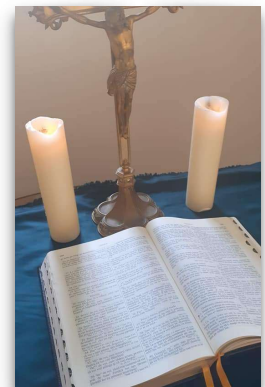


Deacon Arthur and members of the Sofia congregation

The rest of the trip went great and I was able to bring Word and Sacrament ministry to Sofia and Katerini. The saints there were so grateful to us for having Easter services. But I am grateful to our Heavenly Father for holding us in His hands, and for all of you who make this possible with your prayers and financial support. Thank you all so much!

Christ bless you all,
Pastor Andrew Fedder

“Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
Job 19:23-26 (ESV)



To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Andrew and Megan Fedder, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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