

MONTHLY CZECH-IN

April, 2022

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



CULTURAL NUGGET

The Silesian region on the eastern side of the Czech Republic is well known for being one of the biggest producers of coal and iron within the European Union.

While living in this region, I often meet people who have family members that work in nearby factories. The largest iron factory is about 10 minutes away from me in a town called Třinec. This factory has produced approximately 180 million tons of iron since its establishment in 1839. There are also many tourist attractions in the area involving visits to old coal mining facilities that are no longer in use.



Cargo trains with cars full of coal are a frequent sight at the train station. Behind the train station is a view of the iron factory in Třinec.

SHOWING MERCY, SHARING CHRIST



One unique characteristic about the church in Český Těšín is that the youth have a mobile coffee shop.

Our pastor's daughter, Asia, recalls how it all began:

"It all started in May of 2018, with an idea to prepare coffee for people visiting our church at Night of Churches, an event where many churches in the Czech Republic invite people from their community into their church building. We wanted to give them the coffee for free, just as we have received God's mercy and salvation for free, as a gift. After this event, we were asked to have a café at XcamP (our synod wide youth gathering), and from that year on we were annually at XcamP and other church's events. Our team is people from the youth group, we are doing it for free and we give all the profit to different charities or Christian organizations."

I had the privilege of helping the team set up the coffee shop at the Ignite Festival (pictured above). This was an event to welcome 5 teams of Norwegians who had come to serve at churches in the area. One of those churches was ours! Each morning the Norwegians visited the school near the church and invited students to an afternoon program. Throughout week, over 50 new students attended programs at our church! Since then a few students began attending the youth group at our church. Praise God for this outreach opportunity.

Please pray for our Mercy Cafe team as they prepare to share Christ's love again with those who are unchurched at the Night of Churches event in June.



Left: Kids from Sunday school singing songs during our Easter Sunday service.

Below: Second graders take part in an Easter egg hunt at school. During this lesson I also had the opportunity to share a video about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was amazing to watch their faces go from sadness as Jesus went to the cross, to joy as the story depicted the resurrection.



Being on a mission team is a unique experience. After a week of preparing programs, spiritual conversations with students, and building relationships, our Czech and Norwegian teams sat down to evaluate.

“When there was a need, someone just filled it. We really became a family.,” said Torill, a member of the Norwegian team.

Below: The Czech and Norwegian teams engaging in team building activities at the beginning of the week.



Above: Girls from several youth groups joined together on one Saturday to create a small thrift boutique from clothing donations. The event was hosted at our church in Český Těšín, and was titled “Swap”. The money from the event and the leftover clothes all went to support Ukraine.

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 the Ukrainians who had to flee their homes.
- The new students who began attending our youth group.
- For the teams that will be coming this summer for the English Bible Camps in the Czech Republic and Poland.

GIVE THANKS

- For you, my prayer warriors and encouragers.
- All the girls in the Bible study.
- Continued outreach opportunities.

JOY IN COMMUNITY



For the past 8 weeks, I have been meeting with these girls every Thursday evening to go through a chapter of the book *Joy A Study of Philippians* by Deb Burma. I was pleasantly surprised at how open everyone was during the first day. We always started by sharing a joyful moment from our week and then dove into Scripture. What we didn't know is that during these 8 weeks all of our worlds would change in various ways. We typically engaged in spiritual conversations regarding the gift of grace, and often ended the evening by praying for Ukraine. At the beginning of the semester I barely knew the names of everyone in our group. Now as I look back I can see God's hand as He has provided me a Christian community. For the final week I hosted the girls in my apartment and gave them each a sticker, reminding them to choose joy each day.

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:

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

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