

June 2022

Missionary Newsletter

Benjamin, Rebecca and Viktor Helge,
LCMS Missionaries, serving our Lord in
Havířov-Šumbark, Czech Republic and Eurasia



Called to Lead

Upon arriving in the Czech Republic, my Czech language skills needed an enormous amount of work. I remember asking myself, "Where does one word end and the next begin?" Now, eight years later, thanks to our gracious Lord, my grasp of the Czech language allows me to do more than I imagined. This past month the congregation in Albrechtice commissioned me to be the lay leader for the Silesian Lutheran Church's church plant/community center in Havířov-Šumbark.



Ben's commission to lead K4

In this new role, I will lead, give guidance and cast vision for the direction of K4, the name of this church plant. Becca and I both see this as a wonderful opportunity to encourage the church plant in regularly gathering together around Word and Sacrament. Then, having been filled with God's grace and forgiveness, we can go out into the community with the Good News of Christ crucified. During the summer, we will prepare for weekly worship services to begin in September, seek new ways to connect with the community and complete necessary tasks in order to open up the K4 coffee shop to the public. Praise the Lord for how He grows and leads us in His paths.



Ignite Mission Week

Our week with the Norwegians brought in old and new kids from the wider Havířov community into K4. From Monday to Thursday, a small group of young-adult Norwegian Christians, alongside our group of teenage Czech Christians, went into schools to connect with students over Norwegian culture. Students were then invited to K4 for after school parties where much fun was had and relationships were built. They were able to hear about the Norwegians' relationships to God, and some of them have come back to K4 for ETG and other events. We pray God would use these relationships to share who He is.

Viktor Emil's Baptism brings people to church



We celebrated Viktor's baptism with friends over lunch.

God worked faith, grace and forgiveness in Viktor on May 29th when he was welcomed into the family of God through Holy Baptism. The Spirit of the Lord moved in even more ways that Sunday since, sitting in the pew behind us, were a mix of life-long believers, newer Christians and even unbelievers, but all members English Talk Group. They came in support of us and of Viktor. And God brought them into His house to hear the Gospel preached and to witness one of the very real and physical ways in which God extends His grace. Pray that the seed of faith will take root in Jakub and Andrea, two of the unbelievers who joined us for this glorious celebration.



Viki is all smiles, coos and charm. He loves looking at his hands as he waves his fists in the air. He is 13 lbs 10 oz, 25 in and 12 weeks old.



Lukáš, Pastor and Ben's new language partner, baptizes Viktor, while Viktor's godparents, Sam and Monika, join us in praying for him. They are both leaders at ETG and longtime friends.

English Talk Group



Smiling faces at ETG

ETG came to a close for the school year. We praise God for all the new relationships that were made and the many times that the Gospel was shared. Pray for us this summer as we continue to seek ways to connect with students. One way we are doing this is by having a different hang-out event every Monday; we started by having a picnic and swimming in the local dam, and then had a quiz night at K4 that brought in quite a few faces, new and old.

Youth Group

The end of school also marks the end of our first semester of Youth Group. Because it takes place right after ETG, Youth Group has been a natural way for students who are curious about the Bible to stay, share about their joys and concerns, pray, and read and discuss a passage of Scripture, asking simple questions of the text, such as "What does this say about God, Jesus, and His plan? What does this say about humanity?" We've received positive feedback from the team and look forward to continuing in the fall.



Ben leads Bible study time at youth group

Czech Language Studies

Becca had a wonderful online Czech course she was a part of for the better part of the last seven months. It has ended, but she looks forward to what is ahead, and hopes to do more intensive studies in the fall.

Ben has started to meet with Lukáš, a young local pastor who helps Ben to express himself better in Czech regarding theological topics (he baptized Viktor - see photo above). Ben helps him also with his English. Pray that their relationship would help make the church in Silesia stronger and both of their ministries more fruitful.

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Thank you for reading our newsletter! Send us your thoughts, prayer requests and any other comments to benjamin.helge@lcms.org or rebecca.helge@lcmsintl.org.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.

**Benjamin, Rebecca
and Viktor Helge**

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