



My college roommate, Mary, and I toured the Pilsner Urquell brewery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

I wasn't the only one celebrating a birthday in October. On October 5, 1842, a brew master developed the new mash for Pilsner Urquell beer in Plzeň, Czech Republic. The same recipe has been used for 180 years and every drop of Pilsner Urquell beer distributed worldwide is still brewed in Plzeň.

My college roommate, Mary, visited me this fall in Prague. One day, we took the one-hour train ride to Plzeň to tour the brewery. The tour highlight was walking the underground tunnels where the beer was cooled with ice in the 1800s. The oak barrels in the tunnels are still used today for quality control with the batches from modern stainless steel tanks. We tasted a glass of unfiltered, unpasteurized Pilsner Urquell beer straight from the barrel at the end of the tour.

Unlike many of the great Czech beers available locally, Pilsner Urquell is widely distributed and available throughout the United States. When you toast a birthday with a glass of beer, be sure to say, "Na zdraví."



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Teaching and Learning



Conference attendees from 12 countries enjoyed fellowship during coffee breaks in the garden at St. Michael's church in Prague.

Fall classes have resumed and I am thrilled to have new students. Rev. Tomáš Živný, pastor at St. Michael's Czech congregation, now takes weekly individual English lessons with me. Our discussions are robust; his English is better than I expected, except for the typical pronunciation and grammatical struggles. His wife, Diana, joined my fall Conversational English class that utilizes help from American volunteers online. I continue to tutor another Czech pastor, Rev. Žbanek, weekly, as well as the Bishop of the Spanish Lutheran church, Rev. José Luis de Miguel, twice a week.

The reason that English proficiency is so critical among Lutheran pastors is that it is the common language for most theological conferences and networking opportunities in Europe. On October 17-19, one of these theological conferences was held at St. Michael's church in Prague. Dr. Jack D. Kilcrease was the keynote presenter on "Justification by the Word: Restoring Sola Fida." Other presenters included American LCMS

missionaries and theological educators, Rev. Dr. David Preus and Rev. Dr. John Bombaro. They all presented in English, as well as Rev. Dr. Marek Řičan, with Czech translation projected on a screen. Professor Jaroslav Vokoun presented in Czech with English translation projected.

The conference attracted 56 attendees, mostly Lutheran pastors, from 12 countries and 18 church bodies. Other countries represented besides the United States and Czech Republic, included Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Ukraine, Germany, Norway, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Israel. The teaching was described by some of the pastors as the best they had ever read or heard on the topic.

When we gathered together each day for Vespers or Matins, we used the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) and the three pastors also preached in English. Because the confessional Lutheran churches in Europe are small and scattered, these conferences offer a unique opportunity for learning and fellowship. (continued on next page)

Teaching and Learning - continued



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Approval of my visa renewal application.
- My mother in hospice care.
- The pastors that I tutor to continue improving their English.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The successful theological conference held in Prague.
- All of the birthday cards and greetings I received from family and friends.
- Opportunities to share the Good News with many who do not yet know Jesus as their Savior.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The hope we have in Jesus Christ to run the race set out for us on this earth.



Bishop Serge Maschewski of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (ELCU) thanked the LCMS at the end of the conference.

Conversation at the breaks, lunches and dinner was lively and the time together went way too fast. It was good for me to see so many familiar faces and reconnect with people that I have met over the past five years.

I was especially surprised to see two Ukrainian pastors that I knew. One of them preached at Matins and is staying in Wittenberg, Germany, serving a group of Ukrainian refugees there. The other pastor serves as the Bishop of the Ukrainian Lutheran

church; I was shocked and thrilled to see him and his wife, Alona, when they greeted me before the conference. I hadn't seen them since I was in Odesa in 2019. At the end of the conference, Bishop Maschewski thanked the LCMS and our Eurasia Regional Director, Rev. James Krikava, not only for the amazing conference but also for all the help with the war. He said, "When Russia invaded Ukraine, the very first call that we received offering help and support was from our Lutheran friends." The Bishop's heartwarming tribute touched everyone and reemphasizes the importance of mission work abroad. We are working together to expand God's Kingdom and helping those in need.

This month we remember those who are nearing the end of their earthly race, and also my confirmation verse:

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Revelation 2:10 (KJV)

- 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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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