

September & October 2022

# Missionary Newsletter

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



## Gathered in His Name

The body of Christ, His church, gathers in various places and times around the world to hear the Word and to partake of the Sacraments. Word and Sacrament are the essential elements of the church here on earth. God miraculously communicates and gives Himself to us in these ways. So why wouldn't we have regular worship services for the people of Šumbark, where we have been reaching out to the community for the past eight years? This question I asked many times, pointing out that the church does not magically appear out of nothing, but the church is where the faithful are gathered in the name of the Lord. Being filled up with God's grace, we can then go out into the world, or simply the community of Havířov-Šumbark, to share the Good News of Christ for you.

September brought this new beginning, where life-long believers and recent converts met with Jesus and will continue to do so every Sunday. Next week, when you confess your faith in saying one of the Christian Creeds, think of your brothers and sisters in Christ meeting together around the world in the name of the Triune God and praise God for them.

## Weekending in the Mountains

English Talk Group (ETG) and our Youth Group ventured to a nearby cabin for a weekend of building relationships, stories of hope, fun, games and some rest. You probably know how these weekends go: late nights, little sleep, but a wonderful time. The retreat ends, the youth go home and sleep. But what happens when the weekly worship service starts Sunday afternoon and you're back from the retreat around lunchtime? You'd think they would opt to sleep. Yet, to our surprise and excitement, all the youth came to the service to meet once again with each other and Jesus.



Above: The K4 Community Center prepares for worship services. Below: Pastor Ondra Stroka of SCEAV preaching at our first regular service.



Enjoying our first meal together on the retreat.

## Granny Love

What's better than one grandma to hold, hug, kiss and love you? Two grandmas! We thank God for the time He gave us to spend with both of our mothers during October. Leslie even shared a story of hope at youth group on Wednesday night, which resonated with many of the young women that attended, pointing them to the One who gives us true hope, Jesus Christ. We look forward to more visits and family time in the future.



## Conversations to Till the Soil

Sometimes our work as missionaries doesn't scream, "I'm a Christian." For example, English conversation doesn't always have to lead to discussions of faith and Jesus Christ. Sometimes it does, but a non-Christian who has a pleasant interaction with a Christian might be God's way of removing an obstacle that is preventing them from hearing the Good News. We thank our LCMS volunteers who had conversations online with students from around Silesia every Monday in October. They helped Czechs practice English, enjoy the evening and have a positive interaction with a Christian. Look for future opportunities like this one at [servenow.lcms.org](https://servenow.lcms.org).



## New Sister in Christ

In October, Becca started meeting with Kristy, one of the ETG students who expressed her desire to get baptized. Kristy brings her questions about faith and what she's been reading in the gospel of John. She and Becca spend an hour together every Wednesday growing in faith. Pray for Kristy as she prepares for baptism and high school graduation.



Send us your thoughts, prayer requests and any other comments to [benjamin.helge@lcms.org](mailto:benjamin.helge@lcms.org) or [rebecca.helge@lcmsintl.org](mailto:rebecca.helge@lcmsintl.org). Thank you for reading.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.  
In Christ,

**Benjamin, Rebecca  
and Viktor Helge**

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