

SERVING THE LORD IN

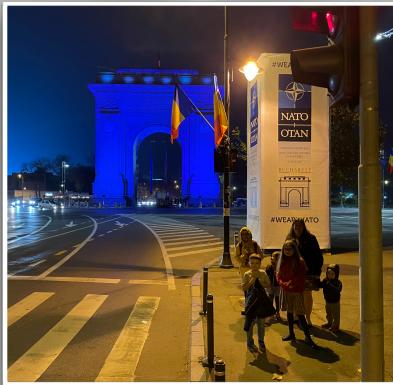
ROMANIA AND THE BALKANS

FROM THE FEDDER FAMILY



January
2023

andrew.fedder@lcms.org



Fedder family in front of the Arc de Triumf, in Bucharest

DID YOU KNOW?

Bucharest celebrates its national day on December 1st. The date is used to celebrate the unification of the three major regions of Romania after World War One. These are Moldavia, Transylvania and Wallachia, where Bucharest is located.

St. Andrew's Day on November 30th and National Day on the 1st of December are major holidays here. Families often travel to their home villages and eat traditional foods. Here in Bucharest, a large military parade marches right through the Arch of Triumph near our apartment.



Worship in the South Balkans



Epiphany service in Brașov, Romania. (L-R Rev. Trifa, Rev. Fedder, Rev. Dr. Preus)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I apologize that we missed a newsletter in December. This winter our family was hit hard by two illnesses. In November, our family missed out on Thanksgiving as we were hit by a nasty flu with high fevers. Then in mid-December, the family began to get sick again. We were finally diagnosed with COVID the day before I was to travel to the South.

No one had to go to the hospital thankfully, but, for nearly three weeks, it worked its way through our house, and every one had a fever and symptoms for at least 10 days. Sadly we also lost our sense of taste and missed out on enjoying all the Christmas foods.

Worst of all, I had to cancel my Christmas trip to the churches in Bulgaria and Greece. This blow hurt the worst. The church in Sofia has not had Christmas Day service in many years, and Greece has never had one. But sick or not the work continues. People need to hear God's Word, and the light of the Gospel must be proclaimed to a world in darkness.

I am very proud of our deacon in Sofia, Arthur Burjinov. He quickly translated my Christmas sermon and ensured that his flock had service. In Katerini, they joined our family for a Zoom service. I was unable to be there and commune the members in the southern congregations, but they heard the Gospel on Christmas. I will be down again mid-January during my regular monthly visit to ensure they receive communion and have Bible study.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The conflict in Ukraine and the church there.*
- *The refugees and all those that aid them.*
- *Rev. Sorin, Rev. Adrian, Rev. Traian and The Confessional Lutheran Church of Romania.*
- *The congregations in Bulgaria, Greece and Moldova.*
- *For safety as we travel long distances to serve congregations*
- *All the men in the region preparing for the pastoral office and the deaconate.*
- *Our new catechumens through the region*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Mission Central and all their amazing work.*
- *OIM and their support for us and all our missionaries.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support us.*
- *Saving Bishop Maschewski's life.*

With the new year coming in Rev. Trifa, Rev. Dr. Preus and I meet in Brașov, Romania, over Epiphany to plan for our joint work in the greater Balkans. Two congregations were planted in 2022: Brașov here in Romania and Chișinău in neighboring Moldova. This brings us up to 6 congregations, two of whom do not have pastors currently. It has been wonderful this year seeing these churches planted and



Rev. Fedder and Claudiu, one of the new confirmands in Brașov

beginning to grow. We also have a number of other families and individuals interested in becoming members scattered throughout the region. With this growth, and given the large area we cover, we need to be strategic. I don't want to give anything away yet, but, we had a fantastic meeting over Epiphany. With the help of God, I pray to have some wonderful and big news coming up.

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!
Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!

Psalm 31:1-2 (ESV)

We also have some news from Ukraine. Bishop Maschewski went to visit and commune members in Kherson, who had been without pastoral care since the Russian occupation of the city. On his way back, his convoy was attacked, and he was hit multiple times by shrapnel. But he is alive, thanks be to God. I would like to thank all of you who gave and are giving money through the LCMS for Ukraine. I say this because the body armor and especially the helmet he was provided by the LCMS saved his life. Sadly, this war keeps grinding forward, and the need for assistance has not diminished. If anything, it has increased now that cities like Odesa are having their infrastructure targeted. I implore you to keep supporting Ukraine through the LCMS. The humanitarian need is great in Ukraine, and the local church there needs our help also.

In the coming month, please pray for our strategic Epiphany meeting to bear fruit, and for Bishop Maschewski's recovery.

Christ bless you all,
Pastor Andrew Fedder



Make checks payable to Mission Central. Write Fedder-Romania on the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through either

<https://missioncentral.us/fedder/>

<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/fedder>



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

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034-7105