

May June July 2023

Missionary Newsletter

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



Jesus Free Us

“Did these things really happen?” asked a shocked 10-year-old participant on the last day of English Bible Camp (EBC) at K4 in Havířov-Šumbark. Another participant piped up, “And how can we know that they are true?” Both are excellent and profound questions, so simple, yet foundational to know. Our English Bible Camp leaders explained with joy that Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, Daniel being delivered from the lions’ den and Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection from the grave are all events that really happened. We know this because the Word of God is true and tells us about them. The children smiled and nodded rather simply, and as I sat there behind the piano waiting to play our theme song, I became teary-eyed as I praised God for these little ones hearing the Good News of Christ crucified and risen for them.

English Bible Camps (EBCs) happened at five different Silesia Lutheran congregations this July, guided by the theme “Jesus Frees Us.” Once again, hundreds of children and volunteers heard about the saving grace that is in Jesus Christ alone. And for the first time, we hosted an EBC at the K4 Community Center. We give thanks to God for the 13 little ones that walked through the door each day, and we are extremely grateful for the six volunteers from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gorham, Maine, who led the activities at the camp.

Join us in thanking God for new connections within the community, for children and parents hearing that Jesus has freed us all from sin, death and the devil and for all those who helped to make EBC possible in K4 and at the four other congregations in Silesia. Pray that the seeds planted would grow and that more Czechs would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.



Above: Children learn about Jesus during the Bible lesson.

Below: Participants and volunteers playing games, having fun and building relationships.



Interested in serving next summer? Visit servenow.lcms.org to find opportunities as they get scheduled.



English Bible Camp | K4 Community Center | 2023



Jesus Frees Us! | Thank you for sharing the Gospel!



A New View

Amongst the joyful busyness and preparation for the summer, Becca, Viktor and I moved to a new apartment. We thank God for providing us a larger place to live, a home to invite more guests into and for new opportunities in a new city. We now live in Ostrava, the third-largest city in the Czech Republic. Our work in Havířov continues as it has. We are only a short 15 minutes away from the K4 Community Center. We pray

that the new atmosphere and surroundings will refresh us to continue to share the Gospel with the people of Havířov as well as in Ostrava.

Our new address:

Benjamin, Rebecca and Viktor Helge
Dvořáková 1117/20
702 00 Ostrava
Czech Republic



Friends from the area help with moving and setting our apartment up. God has blessed us with a wonderful community!

A Different Kind of Mission Trip

When you imagine going on a mission trip, what do you picture? Are you helping with a building project to provide people with clean water and to hear the Word of God? Are you doing street evangelism with a local church in a mountain village? Are you driving across town to serve at a food pantry? Or maybe you're flying over the ocean to learn and educate yourself about what God is doing in a particular place? This is exactly what a group from Faith Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas, came to Czech Silesia to do, or rather, to participate in.

For a week in May, seven LCMS members came to meet with local church leaders, to attend Sunday services, to learn about Czech culture, to explore church history and to serve the community. Together we discussed what church life looks like in different cultures and contexts. We brainstormed ways we could work together in the future. We prayed, ate and enjoyed life together. God opened doors for us at a local school where the team shared about Kansas and sat down to have conversations with eighth and ninth graders for 25 minutes. Thanks to these interactions, five new students joined us for an afternoon program in the K4 Community Center, where they heard the Good News of Christ crucified and risen.

Through learning about the Czech Republic and serving alongside nationals, the Topeka team gained better insight into how their congregation fits into the big picture of international mission. They are now advocates of what God is doing in the Czech Republic.

We praise God for this team, for bringing new people to K4 to hear the Gospel and for Christian sisters and brothers around the world. Be looking for future mission education opportunities in the Eurasia region. It is always a joy for us to welcome you here.



Former SCEAV Bishop Stanislav Piętak shares about Czech church history.



The team experiences the life of a coal miner, a major profession in Czech Silesia, to help them better relate to the community.



Middle school students speak with volunteers to practice English, a major act of showing mercy in the Eurasia region, and often our bridge to connect with people.

Home Service 2023

The Helges are journeying to the US this year to share with you about what God is doing in the Czech Republic and Eurasia. Be looking for more details in the months ahead. Our general timeline is:

First half of November - The Midwest
Second half of November - New England
December - The Southwest

View our presentation from two years ago to refresh yourself on God's work in CZ: <https://youtu.be/tJIJQ9e7GY8>

It Is Necessary

Zacchaeus, that wee little man, climbed a tree, and Jesus ended up at his house. We know the story, right? Well, for a week, the youth groups from the K4 church plant and the nearby mother church of Albrechtice went to the southeastern corner of CZ for a retreat where every day they read the story of Zacchaeus. Becca and I both accepted the invitation to share a devotional thought, one on Zacchaeus' plan (which he didn't have) and one on what Jesus sees. We thank God for the opportunity to tell of how we all are like Zacchaeus, chief of sinners, in need of the Savior, Jesus, who comes to us giving life everlasting. May these young people and each of us hold onto this truth always.



Becca shares about the joy we have because Christ went to the cross for our redemption.

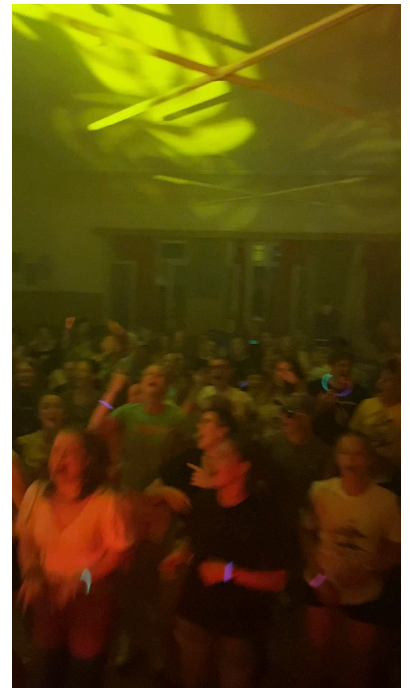
Free to Praise

Summer always brings additional opportunities for my band LiftUp to play at local festivals and church functions. What a joy it is to lead people in singing the praises of our Lord and Savior. The SCEAV youth camp/festival XcamP invited us to play again in July. Packed into a small community hall, 200 youth sang, danced and celebrated the freedom they have in Christ Jesus alone. I will strongly remember the energy and excitement of these youth singing with all their strength, "Jsem svobodný!" (I am free!) Thank you Jesus for the life you give us!

"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57, ESV)



Left: Sharing at a local evening of song and prayer Right: Youth at XcamP sing and dance in their freedom.

Send your thoughts, prayer requests and comments to benjamin.helge@lcms.org.

Thank you for reading.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.

In Christ,

**Benjamin, Rebecca
and Viktor Helge**



To financially partner with this ministry, please send your tax-deductible gift to:

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