



Visiting with a 94-year-old congregation member



Pastor Gevers administering Communion to our new Persian brothers in Christ

Connect with me:

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I'd love to set up a time to talk with you!

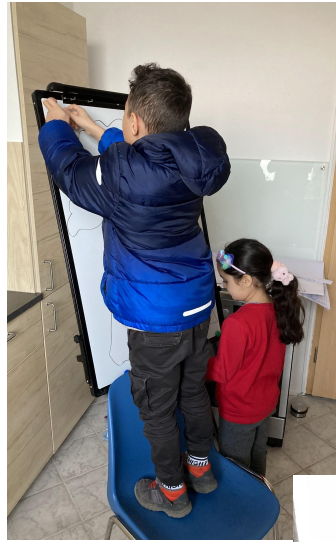
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In a podcast I recently listened to, a pastor reminded his listeners that when we receive Holy Communion, we are taking part in the great feast God has prepared for us in heaven. As we eat of Christ's body and blood around the altar in our own various churches with our fellow church members, we are joined by our fellow believers around the world as well as those who are feasting in heaven.

Our mission pastor, Pastor Gevers, is filling in as vacancy pastor in addition to his regular duties since the German pastor accepted another call. To help support the congregation and Pastor Gevers, Deaconess Kim and I have been helping with visiting some of the older members who can't get out as easily anymore. Every week, we visit one member, a 94-year-old man still living at home, and sometimes Pastor Gevers comes at the same time to bring him Holy Communion. Each week, the same topics are discussed: he never wanted to live so long, why is God keeping him here on the earth when he sincerely wishes to join his parents and wife who have joined Jesus already. And then, Pastor Gevers comes with the Lord's Supper. We sing a couple hymns, confess our sins, profess our faith, recite the Lord's Prayer, listen to a short sermon from Pastor, and receive our Lord's body and blood together. Despite his impatience at still remaining here on earth, when Pastor Gevers comes to celebrate the Lord's Supper with him, this man finds so much comfort in it all, singing and reciting the liturgy with us as tears pour down his face. He recognizes that this little feast, with just the four of us, is just a foretaste of what he will soon enjoy.

Compare this 94-year-old man, who can recite numerous hymns, Bible passages, and portions of the liturgy, to four Persian men. Three of these men are new to the faith. All four sat in Pastor Gevers' adult baptismal classes, they have participated in the events at church and at Brücke, and they all regularly come to church - participating in all aspects of the worship service, except for one: Holy Communion. They all go up to the altar to receive a blessing from Pastor Gevers, but they have not yet tasted of our Lord's body and blood. After several months of instruction, three of the four men were baptized into God's family and the fourth confirmed his faith. What joy and excitement they radiated at being able to finally eat and drink Christ's body and blood alongside their brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as being able to physically taste the forgiveness of our Lord.

Despite differences in age, language, culture, hardships endured, or difficulties faced in the present, these men join us here in Leipzig, and you in the States or wherever you might be, along with all our fellow saints who have gone before us, around the altar of Jesus. We all find forgiveness and fellowship with those at the table, no matter how different they are or where in this world they are - we all become one in Christ. *"With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me. No sorrow fills my soul, delighted it finds its only joy in Thee. Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, be for my soul the highest good!"* (LSB 619:2)



With the change in location for worship services, we were able to start a small Sunday School in Chemnitz. The picture on the **left** shows our meeting place - the kitchen of our outreach center! Though we are small in numbers, these two kids always have great questions as they learn more about Jesus!

Beginning this year, we started holding services in Chemnitz in our outreach center and switched to coming on Saturdays so we can have more time for fellowship after worship with the Persians there.

Please Pray for:

- All those who are fighting for freedom from unjust laws in Iran, especially the family and friends of our members who are still there
- Our congregation in Leipzig as they work through healing from conflict

Give Thanks for:

- The forgiveness of sins and the communion of saints we experience when we celebrate The Lord's Supper
- You and others who pray for and support me in serving the Lord

The picture on the **right** is from our children's retreat last October. Six girls from the neighborhood joined us and several have signed up to join us on the retreat again next week! Please pray for safety and for all to have a great time together.



Conflict in our congregation has caused much pain and hurt feelings in the last several months. The picture on the **left** is from a recent congregational picnic - please pray for continued healing within our congregation here.

Thank you for joining me on this journey of serving refugees in Germany. God has truly blessed me by placing you in my life!

Prayerfully consider partnering in sharing the Good News of Christ with refugees in Germany through a financial gift. Send Checks to:

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E - 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod and include Krause/Germany on the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online at www.lcms.org/Krause or <https://missioncentral.us/Krause/> or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438