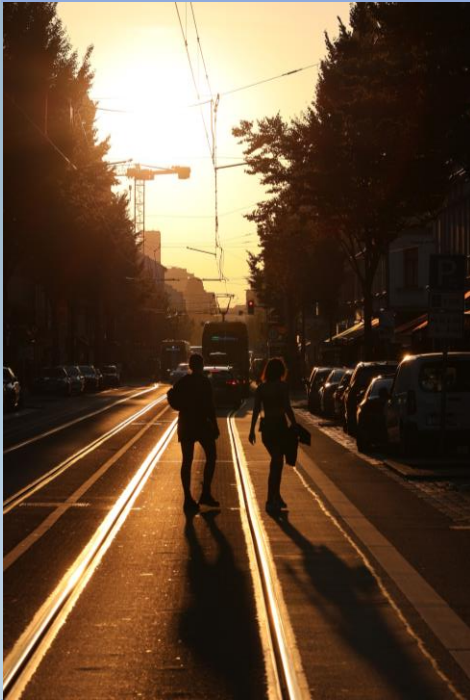




## Finding the beauty



Lukaskirche is a beautiful church, but the neighborhood surrounding it is not necessarily very attractive. Many of the buildings are covered in graffiti, and there is a lot of trash on the sidewalks and streets (we frequently clean up trash and graffiti from the church property). Due to the later hours we were working because of Stadtteilwoche, I observed some gorgeous golden light from the setting sun on the main street near the church during my bike trips back to my apartment. This happened a few times during the week; it pays to be aware of your surroundings 😊.

## Stadtteilfest becomes Stadtteilwoche



Pastor Hugo giving an object lesson to the neighborhood kids.

I've been in Leipzig for just about a year now. Shortly before I arrived last year, the church and die Brücke held the annual Stadtteilfest (Stadtteil is the German word for neighborhood, literally "city part"), a daylong neighborhood block party for people in the area. This year, it was decided that this one-day festival would be extended to a week (thus, the change to Stadtteilwoche), with lots of food, activities for children and adults, and Bible lessons. We're trying to keep that momentum going throughout the year, with more open hours during the week at both the church and Brücke.



Pastor and one of the Persians help a couple of girls paint "graffiti" on a large canvas.



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## More Pictures from Stadtteilwoche



There was a clown who played games and made balloon sculptures.



Kids draw with chalk on the pavement in front of the church doors.



Several ladies from the church devoted hours to face-painting masterpieces.



Andrea explains the message from the mural of the main church entrance (a picture of Jesus with Matthew 11:28 on the edges: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.").

This section is where I'm going to add Farsi versions of Bible verses (and perhaps some sections of the liturgy), along with the phonetic pronunciation and the translation, so you can get a taste of what the Bible looks like to a Persian speaker.

### Learn Farsi!

“بیایید نزد من، ای تمامی زحمتکشان و گرانباران، که من به شما آسایش خواهم بخشید.”

The above verse is Matthew 11:28, and it is pronounced in this way: Beeâeed nazdeh man, ay tamâmee zahmatkeshân va garânbarân, keh man beh shomâ âsâyesh khâham baksheed. It is translated in this way: Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

## Travel to and from Latvia

Kim, Rachel and I drove from Leipzig to Jurmala, a coastal city on the Gulf of Riga where the Eurasia regional retreat occurred this year. Here are some images from that trip.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

-A time of rest and gathering support for Kim, who's in the US for her home service

-The people of Iran and Ukraine, who are suffering due to unrest and war, along with people in Africa suffering from natural disasters

-Continued progress with my translation of the Augsburg Confession

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

-Safe travel for Rachel's mom, who's come to Leipzig to visit and help out a bit

-Persians who are interested in pursuing an occupation in ministry

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

-The arrival of fall and cooler temperatures



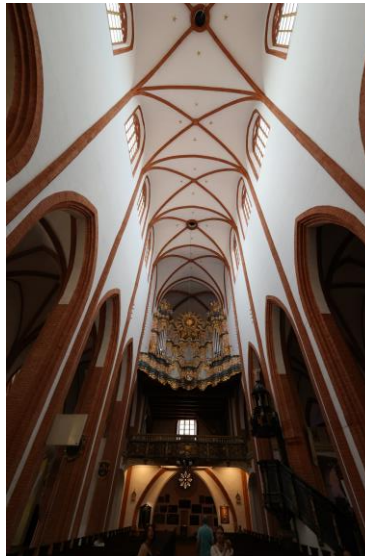
From a tower overlooking a large wetland, not too far from Jurmala.



The Hill of Crosses in Lithuania, where approximately 200,000 crosses of various shapes and sizes reside.



The interior of a large sculpture in Jurmala, whose name is "The Cone" (as in pinecone).



A huge church in Wroclaw, the birthplace of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



A peacock made of pottery, in a Polish town whose region is known for its handmade dishes.



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