

From Chelsea Irwin, LCMS
Missionary
Serving the Lord in the
Czech Republic and
Central Europe



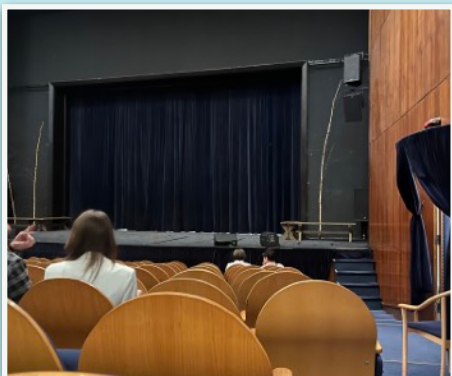
SHORT TERM EURASIA UPDATE



Above: Students listen to a lecture from LCMS Eurasia Regional Director, Rev. Dr. Rajek.

MUSICALS IN CZECH?!

In May, I attended a theater production in Český Těšín. I had wanted to do this for a while, and when I saw the musical “Fiddler on the Roof” on the schedule, I knew I had to check it out. I had seen it many times in English and was excited to see it in another language! As I approached the auditorium, I saw the audience dressed in their Sunday best. I took my seat, and the lights went down. It was incredible. What a wonderful language-learning experience! I hope to visit the theater more often.



In May, we hosted the first Mission Education teams in the LCMS Eurasia Region. The goal of Mission Education is for LCMS members to travel to the international mission field to observe, learn, and engage with LCMS missionaries and international church partners. When I received an email about hosting a group of students from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, I was excited to work with the missionaries in Riga, Latvia, to create a Mission Education itinerary.

Pastor Quintin Cundiff and his wife, Lindsay, were the main hosts from the LCMS team in Latvia. In preparation, I met with Lindsay countless times as she helped to make phone calls, reservations, and connections months before the students’ arrival.

On May 21st, we picked up the team at the Riga airport. The following days consisted of historical excursions, lectures, meals (pictured below), and conversations with LCMS missionaries, Latvian pastors, and others from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia.



One student, Noah, stated, “It’s always refreshing to see how God works through His Church beyond the borders of the United States, and I pray that He would continue to preserve the Latvian Lutheran Church for many years to come. I’d encourage anyone to not only visit Riga and learn about the work being done there, but also explore the work being done by the Office of International Mission at large.”

MORE MISSION EDUCATION!

While I was in Latvia, another Mission Education team was visiting Czech Silesia. This was a congregational team from Faith Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas.

Hosted by missionary Ben Helge, the team was able to witness ministry in Czech Silesia. Their visit included worshipping at the K4 church plant in Havirov, visiting with Czech pastors and youth leaders, teaching an English lesson to Czech students, having a meal in a missionary's home (pictured to the right) and more.

I crossed paths with the team as I was returning back to Silesia from Latvia. Their excitement about what they had seen and learned was contagious!



Mission Education is an opportunity for LCMS members to be physically present on the international mission field. The hope for Mission Education in Eurasia is that LCMS members would get a hands-on experience to take back to their home congregations, creating more advocates for God's mission in the LCMS Eurasia Region.

Praise God for His help and guidance in hosting the first two mission education teams in Eurasia!

(Left: volunteers from Topeka, KS have English conversation with Czech students)

Coordinator Nugget

While hosting teams every month this summer, I hoped to capture a mundane task connected to my job on camera. Each picture helps paint the role of the volunteer coordinator. Some tasks are completed far before the volunteers arrive, and others are done while volunteers are serving.

In each region of the world, the LCMS volunteer coordinators are working to prepare and host LCMS volunteers for various service opportunities.

Left: Bringing in groceries with missionary Lindsay Cundiff to make lunches for the short-term team in Latvia.



YOU CAN SERVE WITH THE LCMS TOO!

There are many opportunities to serve as a short-term or GEO missionary. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

PRAY

- The war situation in Ukraine
- For all volunteers who served in Eurasia in 2023
- For safe travels during my Home Service in the United States this fall

GIVE THANKS

- For you, my prayer warriors and encouragers.
- For Mission Education Opportunities
- For the LCMS Missionaries in Latvia
- The opportunity to sing in church

GIFTS AND TALENTS



Above: Me, singing during the church service in Cesky Tesin

In high school and college, I often sang at my home church in Nebraska on Sunday mornings. I had sang a few times when I lived in Bohumín and really enjoyed it. So naturally, when my pastor in Cesky Tesin asked me to sing, I happily agreed. I rehearsed with the guitarist and came early on Sunday morning. The lyrics to the songs were translated and put on the screen for people to read. After church, my pastor thanked me and asked when I would be willing to sing again and if I would be able to sing in Polish. I thank God for this opportunity to be involved in the church service.

God continues to bless this ministry through your prayers and financial support. Prayerfully consider partnering in God's mission to the Czech Republic and Eurasia through a financial gift.

Send checks to:

LCMS International: P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
(Write "Irwin/Czech Republic" on the memo line),

You can also send your support to the wonderful people at:

Mission Central
407818 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Give online: lcms.org/irwin

Contact Chelsea Irwin: chelsea.irwin@lcms.org



