



Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



September 2023

From a Sermon of Martin Luther Maundy Thursday 1523

You know that when a person bakes bread all the grain is thoroughly ground. Thus each kernel becomes flour with all the others, and thus all are mixed together so that in one sack full of flour the grain is so mixed and thrown together that each becomes the flour of the other. No kernel retains its form. Each gives to the other its flour and each loses its own body. Thus many small kernels of grain become one loaf of bread, just as in the same way when one makes wine, each grape mixes its juice with that of the others and each forsakes its form. From all comes one drink. Thus it should also be with us. I give myself for the common good and serve you and you make use of what is mine of which you are in need. Thus I am your food, just as you make use of bread when you are hungry that in turn your body may help and give strength to the one who is hungry. Therefore, when I help and serve you in all need, I am your bread. On the other hand, if you are also a Christian, you in your turn act in the same way that you, with everything you have, serve me. For me, all comes together for good, and I partake of the same as food or drink. If it happens that I am a sinner and you by God's grace are pious, you strengthen me and you share your piety with me, pray for me, intercede before God for me and cast all of it upon yourself. You swallow up my sin with your godliness just as Christ has done for us. Thus you partake of me, and I in turn partake of you.



Update on Poland

We reported last month on our nascent work in Krakow, Poland. That is still all true. In fact, Martin and Dale are traveling there this weekend (6-8 October) to introduce Dale to the ministry and to lead the monthly service there. (Rev. Dr. John Bombaro will be covering the services at St. Michael in Prague.)

Recently, President Biden announced the establishment of a new permanent U.S. military base in Poland. The LCMS is now considering whether this should bring about a new ministry presence in Poland. Perhaps, God stirred up this work at just the right time! We will very excitedly watch as events unfold and see if this new ministry takes root to share the Gospel with Poles and U.S. service men and women alike. Please, pray for this!



"Youth" Bowling

Fellowship events at church are more than a nice thing to do. It is the natural outgrowth of what happens on Sunday at the Divine Service. There, gathered around the sacred gifts of Christ's body and blood, we are united into one body. As

St. Paul instructs us, *Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.* (1 Cor. 10:17 ESV) Being one body, we are called to love and care for each other. As St. John exhorts us, *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* (1 Jn. 4:11 ESV) Fellowship events are a part of that love and care.

Recently, there was planned a youth outing to go bowling. It was announced as for "children of all ages." By that, I meant the youth of all ages since we are still a small congregation and have a wide range of youth. What we ended up with was more "youthful" adults than true children! Nevertheless, we thoroughly enjoyed our time together as the body of Christ.

We have other activities planned for the rest of the year; we will report on them as they happen. Whether it is because most of our members are so far from home or whether they crave some fellowship with Christians in this secular society, it is just wonderful to spend some fellowship time with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Love one another earnestly from a pure heart ... (1 Pet. 1:22b ESV)



We thank the Lord for all the people and ministries that support us. This month, we especially give thanks for:

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Deshler, NE

Grace Lutheran Women's
Ministry
Redford, MI

St. Johns Ev. Lutheran Church
Casey, IA

Please, pray for the people of the Czech Republic that they might know Jesus.

Please, pray for the work in Poland, that it may gather many.

Please, pray for our regional director, Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek.

Please, pray for our fellowship events to draw us closer to Christ and each other.

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

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Dinner with the Mocks, Herman Strozier, and our new director.

A Visit from the Regional Director, Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek

While we were home on medical leave, there was appointed a new director for the Eurasia region of the LCMS. His name is Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek. Currently, he is deployed to Riga, Latvia where he occasionally still teaches at Luther Academy, our seminary in northern Europe. Because of our absence, we had not met him before our retreat in Latvia. It was a special blessing to have him meet with us here in Prague. In total, there are four missionary families here. He desired to meet with each of us and discuss our challenges as well as our blessings. The high point of his trip was sharing a wonderful dinner in a Czech beer hall filled with good food and Czech music. We hope he serves with us for a long time.

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Rev. Krikava Visits

We were also blessed to receive a visit from our former regional director, Rev. Jim Krikava. Jim is a true missionary with a heart for sharing Jesus with those around him. In total, he spent over 20 years here in the Czech Republic. We were blessed to have him as part of the congregation. He is a joy to preach to as he is very animated in his response to sermons. You never have to wonder if you are connecting with him.

Congregational Facebook Page

The congregation of St. Michael the Archangel maintains a public Facebook page under the name St. Michael Lutheran Church in Prague (English). We use it to post announcements and reminders for our congregants. But we also post the service from each Sunday. If you would like to hear the Word preached in Prague, we invite you to visit our page. Currently, we have only one camera, so when Martin travels to Poland or other locations, the recording is of those services. We are working to purchase another camera so the service in Prague can be recorded every week.

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster – *Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic*

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR**
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Czech Republic," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.

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