



Erntedankfest



Erntedankfest (translation: harvest thanksgiving festival) is a holiday that usually takes place in German-speaking countries in early October (typically the first Sunday after Michaelmas, which occurs on the 29th of September), and is more or less analogous to Thanksgiving in the US. People bring food from the harvest to church and set it near the altar (seen above, from this year's festival), then give it away to the needy. A traditional dish for the holiday is goose, although turkey is becoming more popular; however, it is not as extravagant a celebration as Thanksgiving is in America.

Important update!



My parents and me, shortly after I arrived at the Defense Language Institute in 2012.

There are two reasons I've added a picture of me and my parents at DLI, and they're related to this important update: I've decided not to extend my term of missionary service here in Leipzig.

I plan on returning to the US in early April of next year and then moving to Boise, Idaho. I have family in the area: one of my brothers and his wife and children, and my parents, who moved there about a year ago. This brings me to my first reason for the picture and the decision: I'd like to be closer to them to provide assistance as they grow older. The second reason is related to my military service. I was in the Navy just shy of 10 years. In my planning for the future, I'd like to complete 20 years of service. I intend to join the reserves to complete that service, and it would be difficult to do so while being a full-time missionary (I'm looking at other branches, including the Air Force; the Navy doesn't have too many bases in Idaho). Moving back to the US, specifically Boise, will allow me to accomplish both objectives.

What does this mean going forward? If you are a current monthly supporter of mine, at the end of my service in March, you can choose either to continue your support and transfer your giving to an LCMS missionary in need in a similar line of work, or you can end your support. Feel free to call the donor care line at 888-930-4438 to discuss your options.

I want to express my extraordinary gratefulness for all your prayers and support so far. My work here has been both a challenge and a blessing, and I will continue to faithfully carry out my duties until the end of my service. I have absolutely zero regrets about doing this missionary work, and if you have even the slightest desire to do something like this, send me an email at mark.winterstein@lcms.org or go to www.lcms.org/service to learn more about the manifold service opportunities available around the world.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to mark.winterstein@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Baptism for a new member of the congregation

And I do mean new! I recently had the opportunity to photograph the baptism of the newest member of one of the families at church. The baby is the child of the daughter of the congregation's president, and one of the Iranian members of the church. Yet another example of the way that this church brings people together from all over the world.



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.

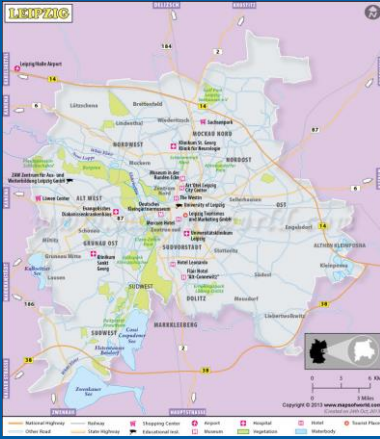
Learn Farsi!

"ای یهوه، خداوندگار ما،
چه شکوهمند است نام تو در سرتاسر زمین!
تو جلال خویش را بر فراز آسمانها گسترانیده‌ای."

The above verse is Psalm 8:1, and it is pronounced in this way: Ay Yahovah, khodâvandgâreh mâ, cheh shokoohmand ast nâmeh to dar sartâsareh zameen! To jalâleh kheesh râ bar farâz âsehmânâ gostarâneedehee. It is translated in this way: Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

A short day trip to Berlin

Our team typically has Fridays off. I recently took one of these to see the sights in Berlin.



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 and Asia suffering from natural disasters

-All those harmed by the terrorist attacks against Israel

GIVE THANKS FOR:

-The newest member of Lukaskirche by way of baptism

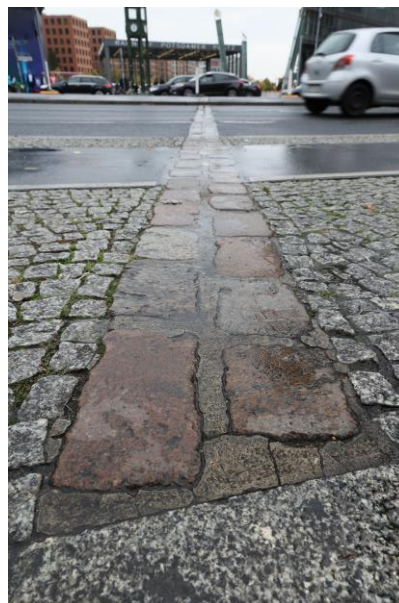
-Persians who are interested in pursuing an occupation in ministry

PRAISE GOD FOR:

-His provision for our daily needs



The Holocaust Memorial.



Two sets of parallel stones marking the former location of the Berlin Wall.



The Brandenburg Gate.



The interior of the Berliner Dom, the Berlin Cathedral.



The interior of Marienkirche, St. Mary's Church.



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

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Mark Winterstein. Make checks payable 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

On the memo line include Winterstein-Germany

Give securely from any device: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/winterstein>
Call a donor care representative: 800-930-4438