



Improvisation



Since Thanksgiving isn't celebrated in Germany the way we would do so in the US, it's not unreasonable to assume that the foods we traditionally consume for Thanksgiving are not available in the way we think they are in the US. I did a lot of searching for cranberry sauce, and this is the closest thing I could find (Heidelbeeren is one of the German words for blueberries). I also had to Frankenstein some green bean casserole (by using a cream of mushroom powdered soup mix), and I didn't find pumpkin pie, so I went with an apple crumb cake. Still thankful for His bounty!

Adventsfeier



Pastor Gevers gives a slideshow presentation covering the past church year.

On December 3rd, the congregation had a little celebration to kick off Advent and the new church year. There was Persian and German food, a recap of the previous church year, music from the brass group, and some hymn singing.



The group participating in the hymn sing.



Music from the brass group.

Nearing the Finnish line



On December 10th, two Finnish pastors joined us for the Divine Services. Pastors Marko Turunen (L) and Pasi Palmu (R) are missionaries living in Hamburg. They have good Farsi skills, work with Pastor Tiews, and are a lot of help up there for the ministry to Persians in two Lutheran churches. For the first service, Pastor Palmu gave the sermon in German, and for the second service, Pastor Turunen gave the sermon in Farsi. We are grateful for their visit and their help in Hamburg!



In late November, I had the chance to visit Bleckmar, the headquarters for church missions in the SELK. It can be seen as the SELK equivalent of the LCMS' Mission Central in Iowa. I got to meet many of the pastors in the SELK and get a more behind-the-scenes look at the SELK's mission work. At left is the small chapel located on the campus.

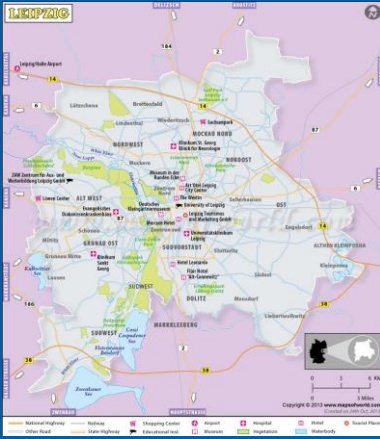


This section is where I'm going to add Farsi versions of Bible verses (and perhaps some sections of the liturgy), along with the phonetic pronunciation and the translation, so you can get a taste of what the Bible looks like to a Persian speaker.

Learn Farsi!

"او پسری به دنیا خواهد آورد و تو او را عیسی خواهی نامید،
زیرا او قوم خود را از گناهانشان نجات خواهد بخشید."

The above verse is Matthew 1:21, and it is pronounced in this way: Oo pesaree beh donyeeâ khâhad âvarad va to oo râ eesah khâhee nâmeed, zeerâ oo ghomeh khod râ az gonâheshân nejât khâhad bakhsheed. It is translated in this way: She will bring forth a son, and you will call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.



The Christmas Garden

It's basically a bunch of different kinds of Christmas lights set up in a park a bit south of Leipzig. There are Christmas Gardens in places all over Germany.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

-My work on the translation of the Augsburg Confession, which is in its closing stretch

-The people of Iran and Ukraine, who are suffering due to unrest and war

-All those harmed by the war resulting from the terrorist attacks against Israel

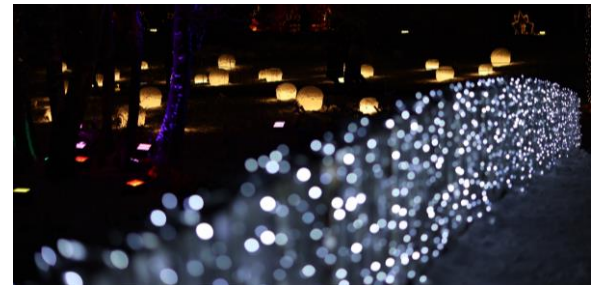
GIVE THANKS FOR:

-Kim's safe return to Germany

-Persians who are interested in pursuing an occupation in ministry

PRAISE GOD FOR:

-His light during the darkest days of the year



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:

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Mission Central
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On the memo line include Winterstein-Germany

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