




This fall, I had the chance to see many of you in person as I traveled around the States, sharing mission stories and photos in congregations and schools. I am so thankful for the time I had with you (though it often seemed too short) and for the hospitality, generosity and outpouring of love and support. At times, it felt like sprinting a marathon, but you all truly blessed me. Thank you! If I missed seeing you this time, please reach out so that we can make a plan for my next visit in 2025!

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 Deaconess in Deutschland

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## Reflecting on God's Blessings from the past year



Leading songs with children at our neighborhood festival

As we prepare to celebrate the greatest blessing that God has given us through the birth of our Savior Jesus, I am reminded of the many blessings of this past year. Things seem to be back in full swing at Die Brücke, with many new faces, as well familiar ones. We continue to teach God's Word and rejoice when newcomers are baptized into Christ. We attend to daily needs and celebrate with our people when they are granted asylum or finally find a job or an apartment.

Our children's camp is growing and becoming more international. We had our usual German children from the neighborhood, as well as some Ukrainian refugees. In addition, a few of our Persian children wanted to attend and bring friends. We had a great week, learning God's Word and singing about Jesus in multiple languages together!

Another highlight of the past year was our neighborhood festival, which we turned into a week-long event. We wanted our neighbors to

know that we are still here and that we are here for them because Christ is there for them. We printed 2,000 fliers to distribute to every household in the neighborhood. We invited everyone to special activities for all ages from Monday through Sunday, culminating with outdoor worship in the park in front of our church, followed by our traditional neighborhood festival, as in years past.

We had a great turnout, and while we met many neighbors for the first time, we also reconnected with some we had not seen for quite some time.

If you remember my newsletter from September 2018 (link in the body of the email at the bottom), I wrote about a little girl who went to camp with us that summer. "Jenny" comes from an atheist family with 7 children from almost as many fathers. She and her older siblings used to come regularly to our weekly kids' program.

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**Muslim neighbors at our festival, listening from outside the church**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- *Refugees struggling here in Germany to connect, learn the language, and find work and housing.*
- *Our neighbors to come to know Jesus.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- *Opportunities to reconnect with neighbors and meet new ones.*
- *Many new people taking classes at Die Brücke.*

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- *Showing His provision and care through each of you who faithfully support me with your prayers, encouragement, and gifts!*



**Teaching cajon rhythms at the neighborhood festival**

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They were learning the Bible and Lord's Prayer, but at home Mom would remind them, "We're atheists and don't believe any of that." At camp 5 years ago, I saw God beginning to work faith in "Jenny's" heart. She loved singing one song in particular about "Jesus, the resurrected Lord." After camp, Mom suddenly stopped letting the kids come to our outreach center. She seemed to be fearful of others in the neighborhood and almost never let the kids out of the house except to go to school.

This past summer, I suddenly started seeing some of the kids occasionally in the park. I always stopped to say hi and let them know we missed them, and they are welcome back any time. They also got the invitation to our festival week, and "Jenny" and her two little

brothers came to every event we had!

One afternoon, I was teaching drum rhythms. When everyone has caught on, I often start singing a song to the beat. I saw "Jenny" wandering nearby, so I started singing her favorite song from camp to see what would happen. I was happy and surprised to see her start to sing along! Later, when I talked to her, she told her brothers about our camp and suggested they should all go next summer! A few days later, she said her mom had given the okay.

Please pray that they do, in fact, come to camp next summer, so they can continue learning about Jesus. Pray that they will start coming back to kids' group, and that God will work in their hearts and in the hearts of their other family members to bring them to faith in Jesus!

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)*

- **Deaconess Kim**



To help Deaconess Kim continue to share the refuge we have in Christ with refugees, send a tax-deductible gift 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

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and include Bueltmann/Germany on the memo line.

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