



Having fun making paper collages at our Children's Group on Mondays

With the Covid-19 pandemic behind us, 2023 has been the busiest I have experienced since coming to Leipzig! The year started with several Persians being baptized and one confirming his faith. Die Brücke has been open more often during the week for people to come in and get help or to enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. We had several congregational celebrations with lots of good food and fellowship. Two of our biggest events this year were our weeklong children's retreat and a weeklong neighborhood festival. The children's retreat grew from last year and included many children from different nationalities. It was wonderful to see the children form new friendships while learning about Jesus and His forgiveness! This year, our neighborhood festival grew from a daylong event to a week long event with something happening every day. The week of activities ended with a worship service on the steps of our church and an afternoon full of music, food, and fun!



These pictures give a small glimpse into what our neighborhood festival week was like - some of the neighborhood kids on the left and our outdoor worship service on the right



Connect with me:

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I'd love to set up a time to talk with you!

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The Children's Retreat participants – six different countries were represented!



Please Pray for:

- Our Polish friend who is homeless and for all the homeless people living on the streets during the winter
- All the new Persian speakers who want to be baptized and are taking Baptism classes

Give Thanks for:

- The many opportunities we have had to tell people about Jesus this year and for everyone who helped with these outreach events
- You and others who pray for and support me in serving the Lord

What is one of the most special gifts you have received? This time of year has many names, one of which is “the Season of Giving.” With Christmas right around the corner, everyone is searching for the perfect gift to show love and appreciation for their friends and family. But often, people are disappointed in the gifts they receive and find the quickest opportunity to get rid of them. Several weeks ago, a homeless man came in for coffee at Brücke. It soon became clear that he did not understand much German and no one at our center knew what language he was speaking. With hand gestures and some basic words, we discovered he came from Poland. I pulled out my phone and used the Google Translate app to try communicating with him. The first time I was able to answer one of his questions, tears welled up in his eyes. With the help of the translation app, we were able to share our names, and I learned that he used to be a carpenter in Poland but now is out of work and living on the streets of Leipzig. He became very emotional, telling me how Jesus lives in his heart and that he is a Christian. Isn't this also what we need to be reminded of every Christmas? That God has already given us the most perfect gift, one that will never disappoint us – His Son who died for our sins and now lives in our hearts. And we can share this perfect gift with others!



In Saxony, Reformation Day means a day off so people can go to church and celebrate. After our worship service this year, we combined the Seniors group with the Confirmation group and Young Adult group for a time of fellowship and learning about God.



A couple of our members who live in nursing homes were also able to join us!

Thank you for joining me on this journey of serving refugees in Germany. God has truly blessed me by placing you in my life!

Prayerfully consider partnering in sharing the Good News of Christ with refugees in Germany through a financial gift. Send Checks 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 Krause/Germany on the memo line.

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