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“Want to go for a walk?”

Life in Germany must include walking. In fact, it's rooted in the culture. From volksmarching (from the German “volksmarsch”) to walking to the store, walking is a way of life in Germany. According to poli-sci major Aanchal Mahli, “Walking and hiking is deeply engrained into the culture.” For reasons related to health, culture, or even recreational enjoyment, walking is a fundamental part of being German. Germans do not expect to lead sedentary lives. Rather, life is meant to be enjoyed on one's feet. Consequently, it is not unusual to see an elderly person trekking to the store to buy groceries—not because transportation is not available, but because that's how life is to be lived. So, if you're planning a visit to Deutschland in person, look forward to traversing a few places on foot, even downtown on a walkplatz like the one pictured above in Heidelberg and enjoy a breath of fresh air.

Photo taken by author.

Quote cited from: <https://www.quora.com/Why-do-many-German-people-like-taking-a-walk-and-hiking#:~:text=Cultural%20Tradition%3A%20Walking%20and%20hiking%20are%20deeply%20ingrained%20in%20German%20culture.>



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“The assurance of things hoped for...”



The Feast of the Resurrection and an adult confirmation at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 2023.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

Faith has two attributes associated with it. First, it assures us of what we hope for. Second, it exposes our convictions about a belief that cannot be perceived by the naked eye. Accepting the call to be a missionary flashes the significance of this text before our eyes. Christ has called our family to serve a people who live in a foreign location. The faith that is *the belief that Jesus Christ, both true God and true man, was crucified and rose from the dead for our sins*, assures us that this mission is His mission, not a mission dreamt up by our own hearts and minds. Even more, this faith reveals our conviction that the Gospel is to be preached to the ends of the earth in His name. Why, because it is our Lord's desire that we should make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them all that He has commanded.

However, this faith is not only understood intellectually, but believed and experienced by all those who are called by Christ and covered in His name. Discipleship isn't just about making followers but having God recreate us in Christ. It is about being washed clean and covered in the holy blood of that Lamb who was slain for us through the waters of Holy Baptism. It

is about receiving the “bread of life,” that is Christ Himself, into our ears and into our mouths through Word and Sacrament. That is what faith believes, not because it can be reasoned in our minds or perceived with our eyes. God's Word either does what it says, that Christ rescued us from sin, death, and the power of the devil through His death and resurrection, and delivers that forgiveness, life and salvation to us where He has promised, or we remain lost, condemned poor sinners. The assurance of that promise is delivered to us nowhere else than through His Word and Sacraments. There is no middle ground. So, as we look to the Resurrection this Easter season, we look to the promises we receive from Christ in the places He delivers them to us, much like the woman in this photo who rejoices as she is confirmed in her baptismal faith on Easter morning 2023. By faith, she received grace and forgiveness into her ears and into her mouth with the saints at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Tea, SD. So also, it is our hope that our Lord will use me and my family to deliver these same promises to the people to whom God directs us to serve in Germany. God grant it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

~Pastor Domenichelli



President Harrison enjoying a painting with the missionary children following our final chapel service at the LCMS International Center.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Good health for the Domenichelli family as we prepare to deploy.
- The Lord to give us confidence and assurance that He will be with us as we move to Germany to serve His mission.
- The children to have a smooth and joyful transition to a new place, new school, and new culture.
- For safe travels throughout the US as we raise awareness and support for this important mission in Germany and Eurasia.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The men and women who have answered the call to serve the Lord's mission both here and abroad.
- Good health, in all our travels thus far.
- Daily repentance and forgiveness as we return in our hearts to our baptisms where the Holy Spirit washed our sins away and covered us with Jesus.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us.
- For His forgiveness, life and salvation which He accomplished for us through Christ and His death and resurrection

Transitions bring out heartfelt preferences.



The Domenichelli children picking out suitcases for their travel to Germany.

Missionary Kids; will travel.

Sometimes, the way to look forward to moving can be as simple as looking for the luggage you want to bring. The Domenichelli household has been filled with many conversations concerning our move to Germany, but sometimes it helps to mentally prepare for such a transition by tangibly looking for the things that will help you get to the place you're going. While looking at luggage, each Domenichelli child picked what they thought would best suit them. Not only did each suitcase prove to demonstrate their practical preferences, but their personalities too. These may not have been the luggage they ended up with, but it was fun for them to express what

they liked and their reasons for it.

Never underestimate family rituals and traditions.

As we prepared for our final week of orientation and training at the LCMS International Center, St. Louis, MO, we were encouraged to participate in "Third Culture Kid" (TCK) training as a family. Within the first training module each child was asked to name a family tradition and/or ritual we currently participate in as a family. Some answers were practical. Some were hilarious. All of them meant something. However, to our surprise and joy, Renee and I were encouraged to find out that things like "praying every night before bed," "singing Matins in the car," or "just playing our own family bible jeopardy" were at the top of our children's list of rituals and traditions they enjoyed most. Never underestimate the things you do as a family that involve Christ and His scripture in everyday life. You may be surprised to find out how much it means to them.

– Pastor Domenichelli

"Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old they will not depart from it" (Psalm 22:6). What a blessing it was to go to missionary orientation at LCMS International Center (IC), where we enjoyed daily devotions and chapel services. Our children became so accustomed to it that they would often beat the adults to chapel. Pictured here, Abigail and Phoebe strolled into chapel with joy and smiles as they looked forward to Morning Prayer with Rev. Sean Dqenzer, LCMS Director of Worship and chaplain for the IC.

Soli Deo Gloria!



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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of the Rev. Jonah and Renee Domenichelli. Make checks payable to:

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P.O. Box 66861 40718 Highway E 16
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On the memo line include *Domenichelli—Germany*

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