SERVING THE LORD IN
Leipzig
Mark Winterstein's missionary work in Germany

Issue 18

Ostereierbaum

In Germany, it's not uncommon for people to decorate bushes or trees with eggs for Easter (the title literally means "Easter egg tree"). This is a tradition that goes back centuries. It is observed in much the same way as decorating a tree for Christmas. Many traditional eggs are real eggs that have been blown (typically using a straw to remove the contents of the egg through a small opening), but there are plenty of plastic eggs that are used, too. In the above example, a bush was placed in the nave near the baptismal font, and it was decorated with eggs on Easter morning.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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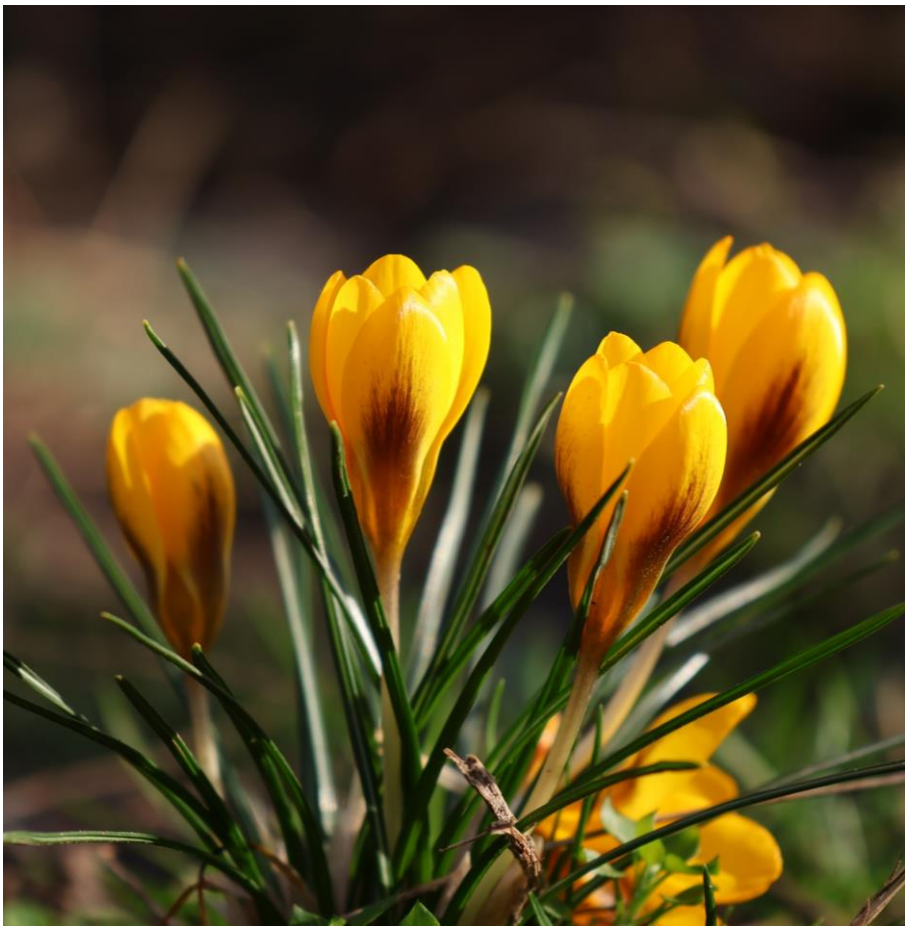
"Remember how he told you…"



"…while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

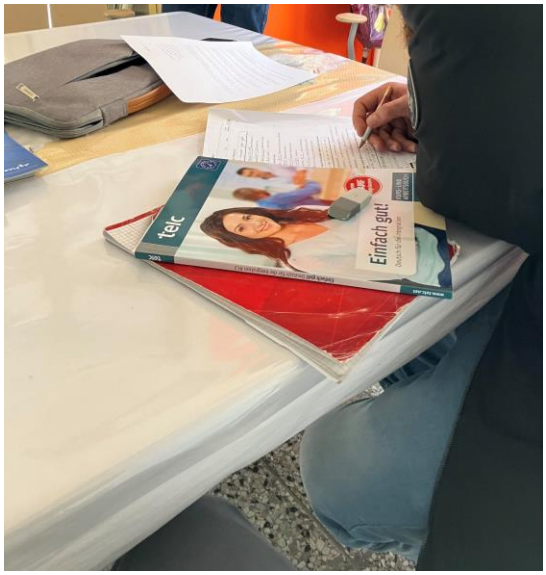
Similar to the previous year, Easter was a busy time for us in Leipzig. Rachel is finishing up her home service in the US, so Pastor Hugo, Kim and I held down the fort for the several services conducted over the several days from Maundy Thursday (called *Gründonnerstag*, or Green Thursday, in German) through Easter Monday. Based on the time I was employed by the LCMS, my term in Leipzig was scheduled to conclude on the 15th of March, but since Easter fell on the 31st this year, I elected to stay a bit longer in order to help out where I was able. I'm glad I was able to extend my service a bit and not leave Hugo and Kim hanging ☺.

Multi-lingual assistance

Here are a couple pictures showing some of the help I provided during my time in Leipzig.

This is one of the women with whom I worked on Saturdays. She is reading a German children's Bible. Previously, we would trade off with them helping me read through the Farsi children's Bible and me helping them read through the German one. I finished the Farsi one relatively quickly; not because I'm fluent in Farsi, haha, but because the Farsi one had fewer, shorter stories. So, after that part was finished, the Persians would read a story from the German Bible, and I would read the corresponding passage from the regular Farsi Bible. I think this was more helpful for the Persians to understand what they read in German.

Here I'm helping one of the other Persians with his German homework. Using a weird hybrid of German and Farsi, I was able to help this fellow better understand the concepts and vocabulary covered in the workbook.



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!

"اینکه مسیح مطابق با کتب مقدّس در راه گناهان ما مرد، و اینکه دفن شد، و اینکه مطابق با همین کتب در روز سوّم از مردگان برخاست. "

The above verse is 1 Corinthians 15:3b-4, and it is pronounced in this way: Eenkeh masee motâbegh bâ katbeh moghadas dr râheh gonâhâneh mâ mord, va eenkeh dafn shod, va eenkeh motâbegh bâ hameen katb dar roozeh sevom az mordegân barkhâst. The translation is as follows: It is that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the holy Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures….

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

-Safe travel for Rachel, who is returning to Germany after her home service

-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:

-Jesus' resurrection from the dead

-Persians who are interested in pursuing an occupation in ministry

PRAISE GOD FOR:

-Your prayers and support, which enabled me to embark on this term of service

Plane rides

Below are two pictures I took on April 3rd: the first in black and white is one of the last pictures I took in Germany, and the other is the view of Mt. Rainier on my flight from SeaTac Airport to Boise, one of the first pictures I took back in the US. I can't thank you enough for all your prayers and support! You partnered with me to help bring the Gospel to Persians and Germans in Leipzig, and for that, I am very grateful.

A view of the tarmac in the Frankfurt airport.

The mountain above the clouds.

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 Mark Winterstein. Make checks payable to:

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