2024 Issue 2

Missionary Newsletter

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LCMS Missionaries, serving our Lord
in Havířov-Šumbark, Czech Republic
and Eurasia

Newsletter Series: It's been a while. We're continuing our updates on what God's been doing in 2024 so far. Issue three is soon to follow.

A Month of New Opportunities and Encouragement - April

A team of five volunteers from Faith Lutheran in Topeka, Kansas, joined us at K4 for three weeks in April. It was the first time we have hosted a team for this long at K4, and it was a really great time. Let us walk through the ways they served and expanded on K4's outreach in Havířov!

School Visits

On Mondays, the team visited classrooms in Havířov to have English games and conversations with students. The team brought a scrapbook they made to share about life in Kansas with the students. Younger students (6-11) were invited to attend K4 for a new kids club on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while older students were invited to ETG on Wednesdays.

Kids Club for students 6-11

A totally new program for students was formed at K4 during the Kansas team's time and has continued on because of interest! Every Tuesday and Thursday, our colleague Chelsea planned activities in English for students based on a theme (colors, house, animals, etc.) The team from Kansas graciously led these activities with the students for an hour on these afternoons. There were new faces and much fun was had. We have continued the kids club on Tuesdays and are hopeful that it will help to gain students for our English Bible Camp in July.

Top to bottom:
1. The entire Faith Lutheran team posing with Viktor.
2. Hannah speaking with students on a Monday.
3. Kids guessing the animal during Kids Club.

English for Adults

At four o'clock on Monday afternoons, the team met an array of community members who were seeking to improve their English. Great conversations were had, pictures were shared, and new memories were made. Some came back every week to continue the discussion! At five o'clock, those present were invited to join a Bible study in English. This brought new and old friends to K4 to discuss familiar passages with the Americans. It was encouraging to study the Bible in English with them, and I (Becca) was surprised to find out which people knew how to speak English so well. In the fall, we would like to have the pattern of once-a-month conversation to be a discussion of a Biblical text as a way of continuing to provide casual opportunities for nonbelievers to hear the Good News.

Getting to know adults in the community through English conversation.

Interested in serving?
Visit servenow.lcms.org to find opportunities as they get scheduled.

Cultural Exchange and Games for Senior Citizens

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, the Kansas team was available to meet in K4 to interact with available community members. A cultural exchange was offered on Tuesdays, and games on Thursdays. Unfortunately, this did not draw a crowd, but we did have one faithful member, Marta, a relative of one of our K4 regulars, who came every time. Marta didn't speak much English, but she didn't need to in order to capture the hearts of the team members. One day, she brought her daughter and grandson to K4. On one of the last days together, she met up with the team in Český Těšín and invited them to her church to meet her pastor and show them around the town. They loved it and were so grateful for her.

Learning new games during the morning activities for senior citizens.

Baby Club

The Kansas team joined us for Baby Club on Friday mornings. It was very sweet to watch the team interact with the kids, and some of the kids really befriended them! It also gave the moms a chance to practice their English and ask questions about why they were there. In the team's handy scrapbook, there were pictures of an adult being baptized, which led to many questions and discussions about what baptism is.

Making collages at baby club with friends of all ages.

English Talk Group, Youth Group, & Hang-Out

Wednesday ETGs drew huge crowds of students who were excited to meet with Americans and practice their English. Ben ran a traditional program, and the Americans took part. At the end of each time, the Gospel message was shared. Students were then invited to stay for Youth Group. New kids did stay. We are grateful for how many students were exposed to the Good News that God loves us and that it is evident through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. There was a party on the last Friday with the Americans so that we could celebrate together and thank the Americans one last time for their contribution to the life of K4. Out of this was born the idea that we should have a hang-out time not just for middle and high schoolers once in a while on Friday nights, but for anyone in our community to enjoy each other and have a good time, while hopefully making connections with believers.

Above: Talking in small groups at ETG
Below: Hanging out on our last Friday night together.

Tuesday Night Dinner and Bible Study at the Helge's

The Kansas team graciously cooked us dinner on Tuesday nights and prepared a Bible study for believers at K4 while they were here. It provided a lovely time of fellowship and opportunity for the Czechs and Americans to learn from each other about faith and to get to know one another over a meal.

We are grateful for the way God is growing K4!
There was a time not very long ago that K4 had worship services on Sunday afternoons and ETG on Wednesdays. This has changed a lot in a short time! God has provided the availability of people with talents to lead English for Adults, Kids Club, and Baby Club. The Kansas Team encouraged us and gave us new ideas for continuing to lead K4.

Send your thoughts, prayer requests and comments to benjamin.helge@lcms.org.
Thank you for reading.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.

In Christ,
Benjamin, Rebecca and Viktor Helge

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