

Ashley's Czech News



By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

Psalm 65:5

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless you.

Psalm 118:26



Ashley Angerman and I are the two LCMS missionaries serving in the Czech Republic. Ashley finally arrived three weeks ago. I'm glad to have her here, and so nearby!

LCMS World Mission

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Dear supporters, friends and family:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

It was such a blessing for me this year in my Thanksgiving celebration to thank God for the support that you have given and continue to give to His work of spreading the Gospel through me here in the Czech Republic. I truly do thank Him for you and for your partnership with me in spreading the Good News about His Son Jesus Christ. I also pray that He will continue to grow you up through the sanctifying work of His Holy Spirit until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When they ask for Jesus...

One night this month, God gave me the opportunity to explain to my adult conversation class the problem of sin, God's promise of salvation and eternal life, Christ's fulfillment of the promise, and the guarantee of eternal life to those who believe.

During the second hour of the class, we read the story of Jacob stealing Esau's blessing from 100 Bible Stories (published by CPH). The books are wonderful for practicing reading and pronunciation, as well as teaching the Bible by pointing to Christ with reflection questions at the end of each story.

At the end of the story, I modified one of the difficultly worded questions in the book to ask: "Does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have anything to do with our sin?" and gave the students four choices: 1) No, 2) Yes, 3) I don't know, or 4) I don't care.

They thought about it for a while when one student, who is not a Christian and for whom I've been

praying, said, "I don't know. What do you think?" My heart leapt at the opportunity to tell them. I told them that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has everything to do with our sin. Starting with the story of the Fall and God's promise there of a Savior, I pointed to Christ's completion of that promise, saying that He did everything necessary to redeem our relationship with God, and that when we believe His word, we can have confidence of forgiveness and eternal life.

It was an incredible, humbling opportunity to do what I came here to do and to watch the reactions of my students, especially of the one who asked the question. How beautiful to be invited to tell the Gospel!

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect," 1 Peter 3:15

Coming

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

Advent starts tomorrow. The first Sunday in Advent is the Christian new year, the beginning of the time when we prepare to celebrate the Lord's first coming to earth, humbly as a babe in Bethlehem, and when we also look forward to His second coming, His imminent return on clouds of glory. Therefore, in our worship, we focus much on Old Testament prophecies that promise the coming Messiah and New Testament passages about Him coming (John the Baptist preparing the way, the Triumphal Entry, and the Return on Clouds of Glory).

Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the Church Year. It is so beautiful to prepare a place in our hearts through repentance for the

Infant King to come and reign. It is likewise beautiful to prepare our homes for the same by decorating for the celebration of His birth. It is important too to prepare our hearts for His return.

From the Scriptures, we know that time of His return will be as unexpected as a "thief in the night," visible to all as lightning is visible in the sky, and will be heralded as appropriately as the coming of any king, with the trumpet blast of His messengers, the angels.

My prayer for this Advent season is that you and I would not only prepare our hearts once again to welcome the birth of our Emmanuel, but that we would be made by God to be in perpetual readiness, through faith in His promise, to welcome the blessed day of His return, and to pray for it's quickening. May we also share the Gospel of His grace with those around us who do not know it, so that when the Day comes, they might also welcome it in faith rather than with fear.

Please Pray:

-that God would make known among the nations what He has done in providing atonement for our sins through His Son Jesus.

-that the Lord would return soon and draw all nations to Him

-for my students, that God would give them faith to believe His promise of salvation.

-that you and I would have more opportunities to clearly share the Truth about sin and the Savior with our neighbors; that they would believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

-for discernment for me, whether I should remain here for a second year of return to the States! I will be needing to make a decision soon.

Financial Update

Please consider renewing your support for me for a second year. I have not finalized any decision to stay, but am strongly considering it. I think that God is just beginning His work with me here and given continued development of relationships and language acquisition will make a second year more fruitful for my labors for the Gospel here.

Future financial gifts may be sent to either: LCMS World Mission
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Or to: Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
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**The Global Gospel
Outreach of the
Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod**

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Check out my blog!
[http://aefken-
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czech.blogspot.com/](http://aefken-lcmsworldmission-czech.blogspot.com/)



*Come, Thou Precious
Ransom come, only hope
for sinful mortals. Come,
O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all
portals. Come, Thy beauty
let us see; anxiously we
wait for Thee.*

World Mission on the Web:
www.lcmsworldmission.org