



The first baptisms in the newly restored St. Lukaskirche.

## REFUGE IN THE FOUNT

Since coming to Leipzig, I have witnessed thirteen refugee baptisms. It is a true blessing to see the joy on their faces as they receive God's gifts of grace and forgiveness through the waters of Holy Baptism.

Many of these refugees have shared heart-wrenching stories of their previous lives and their difficult journey to Germany and to faith in Christ. Their stories are a true testimony to God's loving kindness and provision.

Now, many are facing court hearings to determine their refugee status. I attend whenever possible to lend support and am prepared to testify on their behalf if ever called upon to do so.

Whatever the outcomes are, I thank God that they have found their true and eternal refuge in Him.

### Connect with me:

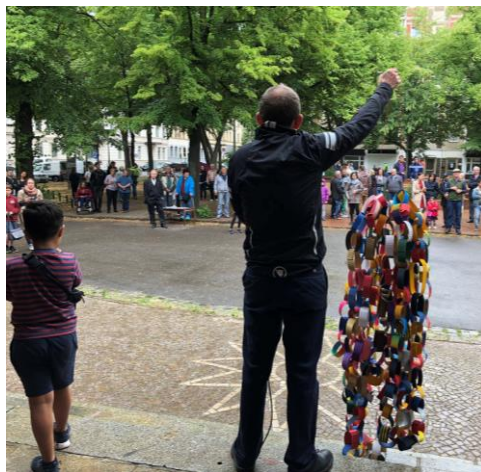
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Deaconess in Deutschland

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## Inviting the neighborhood into the community of faith



Missionary Pastor Hugo Gevers standing on the church steps, inviting the Volkmarsdorf neighborhood in Leipzig to join us in church.



Inside St. Lukaskirche on dedication day.

It has been an exciting and busy summer here in Leipzig! After seven refugees were baptized on Pentecost, we kicked off the summer by celebrating the dedication of the restored altar in our newly restored church building. The day began with a special neighborhood festival to which all were invited. We served cake and coffee and offered various activities, including live music and a bicycle taxi!

Toward the end of the festival, just before the dedication service was about to start, Missionary Pastor Hugo Gevers held up a long paper chain--each link representing the many people involved in the restoration work. He talked about how we had all come together in the community and, after enjoying eating together and playing games together, he invited everyone to also come into the church together.

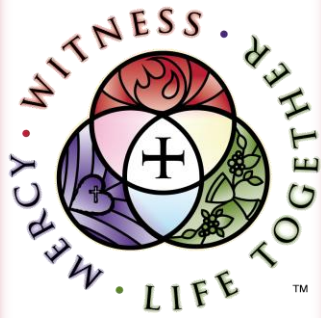
The dedication service was a beautiful celebration. Many in the neighborhood who normally do not attend church joined us. I was able to sit with several children who come to our weekly group at Brücke. ***When the Lord's Prayer started, their eyes sparked with recognition, and together we spoke the words, using the hand motions we taught them at Brücke.***

The Bishop of the SELK preached for the service, and guest musicians from neighboring congregations joined our choir and brass group, enhancing the worship. Our LCMS Eurasia Regional Director Reverend James Krikava also attended and shared a greeting from the LCMS with the congregation.

One week after the dedication, three more refugees were baptized, including the young boy pictured with Pastor Gevers above.

All the excitement has drawn several curious neighbors. We have regularly had new visitors on Sunday mornings since the church's official reopening. Join us in praying that this curiosity will lead to more than just a one-time visit and that many may come to know the truth of God's Word and find saving faith in Christ Jesus.

# Children's Summer Camp



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The Volkmarisdorf neighborhood, that they may be reached by the Gospel.
- The children who attended camp, that they may continue to come to hear God's Word and grow in faith.
- Persian church members who have upcoming court hearings to determine their refugee status and those who await decisions from the judge.
- Continued success in learning the Persian language (Farsi).

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The opportunities to share the Gospel with those who are not yet in Christ.
- God's provision and care in granting good health, safety, and all that I need through each challenge that I face.
- The blessing of being able to see evidence of God's work in the hearts of those we serve.

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

- So many new brothers and sisters in Christ through Baptism!



Left: Craft the children worked on at camp, reminding them of the truths they learned from God's Word all week.

Right: View from the top of the playground, where I found one of the girls singing.



In July, we took many of the neighborhood kids on a summer camp retreat. Many of them rarely have the chance to even get out of the neighborhood, and this was a wonderful chance for them to experience nature and have more concentrated time learning God's Word and singing his praises. No children that went along are baptized yet, except for one refugee child. The week had its ups and downs: lots of fun and educational activities mixed in with normal summer camp challenges of discipline, homesickness, hot weather and bug bites. All in all, it was a great week!

The highlight for me came on the last night. I went out to the playground to call the kids in for our closing event and discovered one of the youngest kids on top of the playground singing at the top of her lungs "Jesus, der auferstandene Herr..." (Jesus the resurrected Lord...) This was one of the songs we had learned with the group about not being troubled because the joy of the Lord is your strength and Jesus, the resurrected Lord is with you. Soon another little girl was singing along from the other end of the playground, and running over to climb up and join the first girl. They invited me to climb up with them and sing along, and we proceeded to sing all the songs I had taught them during the week.

Later that evening during the closing devotion, our pastor made the statement, "God likes us." The original girl who I had found singing, interrupted and emphatically shouted, **"No, He LOVES us!"** God is clearly at work in this little girl's heart. We pray that she and her family will eventually join God's family through Holy Baptism and join us in regularly receiving God's gifts in weekly Divine Services!

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)*

- Deaconess Kim



St. Lukaskirche with a banner painted by our children's group, inviting all to the festival.

To help Deaconess Kim continue to share the refuge we have in Christ with refugees, send a tax-deductible gift 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 Bueltmann/Germany on the memo line.

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