




HOME SERVICE VISITS

For the past several months, I have been sorting through bureaucratic issues pertaining to maintaining German residence, and just this week received word that I will be able to continue to live here! This also means that I will be able to return to the U.S. this fall for my first home service! If your church is not yet on my visit schedule, contact me to see how we can fit you in!

Connect with me:

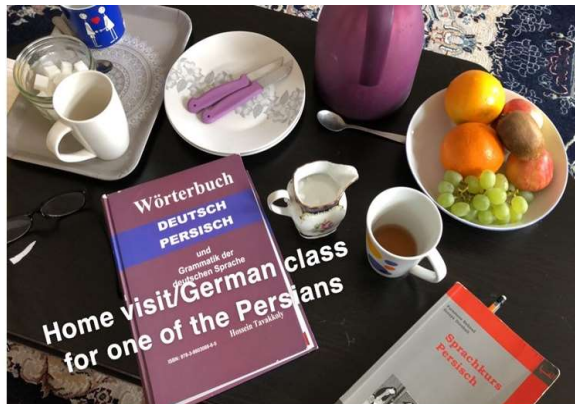
Kim.Bueltmann@lcms.org

 Deaconess in Deutschland

If you receive this newsletter by mail, but would prefer the email version, send me an email to let me know, and I'll gladly make the change.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send me an email with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

The Power of Presence in the Pandemic



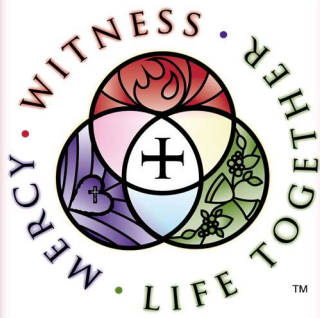
Above: The coffee table during one of our home German lessons.



Right: Ghormeh Sabzi, a Persian herb stew is a favorite dish that is often served when I am visiting a refugee home.

The past eighteen months have been a trying time for everyone throughout the world. For mission work, it has been a time of adaptation and flexibility amidst uncertainty and challenges. Like many ministries, we have adapted by figuring out ways to serve people digitally: creating online content, livestreaming worship, and organizing zoom classes and meetings. However, in handling many of the day to day needs of the refugees we serve, there is also a need to be present. Before the lockdown, we could open the doors to Brücke, welcome groups of people and help individuals in turn while others visited over tea and coffee. Since we were forced to close Brücke for many months, we have been going to individuals in both Leipzig and Chemnitz and beyond to help them one on one. While this method has had its blessings and benefits, it is also much more time intensive. Instead of spending an hour of my day working with a small group at Brücke on their German, I am driving 30 minutes one way to a refugee housing facility to meet with an individual to practice German. And after an hour-long lesson, their cultural traditions mean offering me a meal and tea afterward. So, what was previously one hour of my week turned into a whole day event. At the same time, it is truly a blessing to be able to visit people in their homes and build those relationships, especially during a time where personal contact is limited. It has also provided an opportunity to meet other refugees that I may not have encountered otherwise, such as a new family from Eritrea who have since visited our German worship service. ***We are thankful for being able to reopen at the beginning of August! This past weekend our community was overjoyed to be able to come back together again and celebrate being the Body of Christ!***

Young Refugees Growing in Faith



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

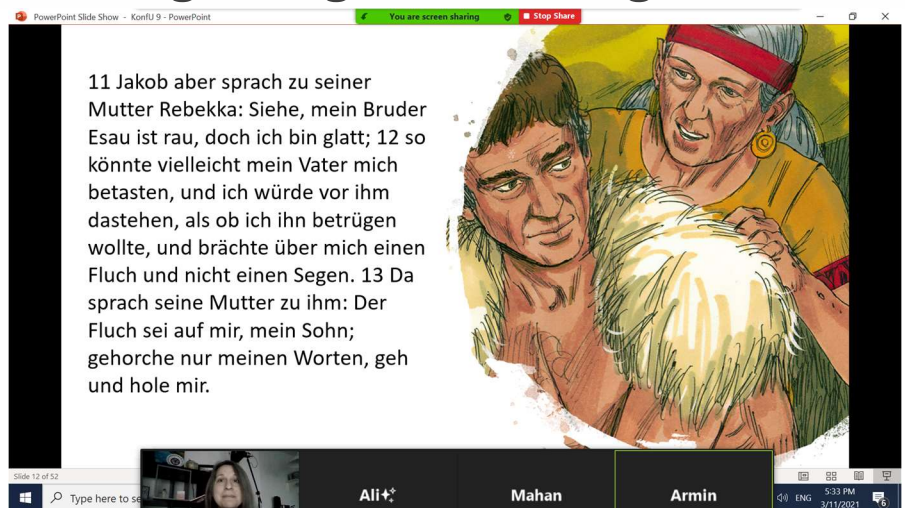
- Refugees preparing for Baptism soon
- Refugees struggling with various issues, including addiction and depression, as well as those searching for work and housing
- Unrest in Afghanistan in Iran

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- A new baby recently baptized in our congregation, born to a Persian man and German wife.
- Once again being able to open our doors in Leipzig and Chemnitz to connect with and help more refugees

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Two refugees baptized this past Sunday!
- Young Persians growing in faith!
- My German residency being extended!
- Showing His provision and care through each of you who faithfully support me with your prayers, encouragement, and gifts!



Screenshot of our Confirmation class on Zoom

This year I began teaching a group of young Persian confirmands. One boy was born in Germany, but the others came here with their parents as refugees. Since they attend German school, most of them are doing well with German. Even though they speak Persian fluently, most of them are unable to read or write the script. So, we have been holding the class in German on Zoom. Besides the extra preparation needed for a Zoom class, it can be a challenge to engage youth through the screen. Many Persians do not often bring their children to church, so when we started the class, I had not even met them all in person yet!

The parents remember being forced into Islam, and do not want to force their children into being Christians. One girl "Penny" has not yet been baptized. So, we started with Bible basics, and the youth have had some great questions and insights along the way. Thankfully these last few weeks before summer break, we were finally able to meet face to face, which was so much more fun and productive. ***"Penny" has started coming to church with her parents and told me she wants to be baptized as soon as possible! Pray that these youth will stay close to Jesus as they continue to learn and grow in faith!***

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



Once again excited to open our doors to visitors!

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.

Gifts can also be given securely online at lcms.org/Bueltmann or <https://missioncentral.us/bueltmann/> or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438.