



Celebrating Easter at my home congregation was different this year but still full of beauty

Connect with me:

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I'd love to set up a time to talk with you!

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In a recent Bible study at my home church, we studied Israel's entry into the land of Canaan, seeing how fear and lack of trust can cause us to doubt God's control of our lives.

Israel has finally arrived at the Promised Land. They are finally ready to see the beautiful land that God has in store for them. Moses sends one man from each tribe to scout out the land and for 40 days they travel around Canaan discovering its bounty. But when they return to Moses and the Israelite encampment, ten of the spies are filled with fear of the giant Canaanite people. They spread fear and doubt among the rest of the Israelite community who refuse to conquer the land God promised to them. As a consequence, they wander in the desert for 40 more years.

Finally, those 40 years are over, and Israel is once again preparing to enter the land. Joshua is in charge and sends two men to spy out Jericho. Almost as soon as they arrive in Jericho, these two spies are in grave danger. The king of Jericho finds out they are in town and begins a manhunt for them. In a strange turn of events, they are hidden by Rahab, a citizen of Jericho, who tells them, "all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you." She helps them escape from the city, and they return to the Israelite camp unharmed. The report that these two spies give Joshua is completely different from the report given 40 years ago. Even after being hunted by the king, these two men aren't scared and don't spread a fearful rumor among the camp that Jericho is unconquerable. Instead, they proclaim in faith that "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands..." (Joshua 2:24 NIV)

This story caused me to think of how often I act like the ten spies from the first mission. Perhaps everything is going well when suddenly a huge bump in the road of life greets me and, rather than responding in faith, knowing how God has been with me and helped me in the past, I respond in fear and a lack of trust. In my fear, I forget and doubt how strong our God is. But then God places people, or Bible passages, in my path just as He placed Rahab in the path of the two spies and they remind me of God's might and power. They remind me that Jesus has power over nature and sickness. He is so powerful and mighty that Satan and his minions fear and tremble before God. He is so powerful and mighty that even death can't conquer Him. And through Jesus' death and resurrection, we too are given strength in our weakness so we can say along with the spies, "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands."



My backyard is full of these beautiful wild violets and dandelions!

Please Pray for:

- All the places in the world where Covid cases have spiked, especially India
- Everyone who is struggling with grief - that God makes His peace and comfort known

Give Thanks for:

- The opportunity I had to travel to St. Louis and be uplifted through my 2nd week of Orientation
- You and others who pray for and support me in serving the Lord

What I've Been Up To:

I drove to St. Louis for my second week of orientation at the LCMS International Center in the first half of April. What a blessing to be able to complete orientation as it was cancelled last year due to COVID. It was a joyful time to connect with fellow missionaries and brothers and sisters in the faith as we support each other in our current vocations. I also met some new members of the Eurasia team, specifically a pastor and his wife who are heading to Germany!

In addition, I also started co-hosting an online English Conversation class again with Cindy Wrucke. Our first class went so well! It was a joy to see the students and their tutors forming connections so quickly too. Cindy and I were surprised by a student who volunteered to read Luther's Evening Prayer at the close of class. We had planned on Cindy saying the prayer this first week so as to not put too much pressure on the students during the first class. But one man jumped right in and asked to read the prayer! What a joy to see this kind of enthusiasm when praying and learning! I can't wait to see what other blessings God has in store for this class in the coming weeks.

There's some possible good news regarding travel to Europe! Apparently, they are planning to open their borders to tourists sometime this Summer. I'm reluctantly hopeful at the prospect of going to Germany this Summer and pray that the borders open according to plan.

Thank you for joining me on this journey of serving refugees in Germany. God has truly blessed me by placing you in my life!

Prayerfully consider partnering in sharing the Good News of Christ with refugees in Germany through a financial gift. Send Checks 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 Krause/Germany on the memo line.

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