



A picture of my dad hugging Jesus
Made by Cheri S.

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I'd love to set up a time to talk
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"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV)

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28 NIV)

God's timing is a mysterious thing. In many of my newsletters, I've talked about trusting in God and His perfect timing because He always has our best interests in mind. God's timing and plans are always perfect but sometimes what God has planned for us hurts. A few weeks ago, my life suddenly and unexpectedly changed. As my dad was leading worship, he collapsed and was rushed to the hospital where he died a couple hours later. My dad knew Jesus as His Lord and Savior, and I know he is with Jesus now. But it hurts. God's timing is perfect, and it was in God's timing for my dad to leave this earth and be with his Heavenly Father. But it still hurts. Death and sin are some of the troubles we see over and over again in this broken world. They are painful and in the midst of grief, it is sometimes hard to see God's love and faithfulness. One of my favorite Easter texts is John 20:10-18. Mary Magdalene is at the empty tomb, weeping. She sees a man she assumes is the gardener but is actually her risen Lord! Jesus comes to her and comforts her and turns her grief into joy. Even in the midst of sadness and uncertainty, God still loves us and cares deeply for us. He is still working for our good. It may be hard to see through all the grief, but I know someday I'll be able to look back and see how God was using this time of immense sadness not just for my good, but for the good of so many others. And I know, just as He did for Mary Magdalene, God will turn our grief into joy.



Hiking on a frozen lake with a friend's dog
(photo cred. Sarah B.)

Please Pray for:

- God's peace and comfort for me and my family during this difficult time
- All those who have lost loved ones and are in need of God's comfort

Give Thanks for:

- God's perfect timing and His plans for His people
- You and others who pray for and support me in serving the Lord

My dad was one of my greatest supporters as I began the journey to become a missionary. Over the past year, he felt my frustration in not being able to get to Germany throughout the pandemic but continued to reassure me that I would get there when God willed it. God's timing is perfect and mysterious. Because of all the lockdowns and travel bans, I was able to spend even more time with my dad before he died. God knew where I needed to be. My home church's mission statement is "Loving people to Jesus." I look forward to loving people to Jesus in Germany whenever God says it's time for me to be there.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4 NIV - one of my dad's favorite Bible verses

"Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord His children sever; Unto them His grace He showeth, and their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh; His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy." *Children of the Heavenly Father* (LSB 725:3-4) - one of the hymns from my dad's funeral

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