



The first Advent candle is lit!

## Connect with me:

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

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

Throughout the centuries, the time of Advent in the church has been marked as a time of waiting. We wait to remember how God's people waited and waited for the coming of the promised Messiah. Ever since sin came into the world, God had promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior to rescue us from our sin. In contrast to the many years the Israelites had to wait, our season of waiting during Advent is filled with joy and excitement because we know what comes at the end - Christmas! With joyous anticipation, we look forward to the day we celebrate God sending His Son into the world as our Immanuel.

This time of year is known for giving to others, doing for others, spreading the wonder and knowledge of Christmas to all we meet. This time of waiting is done in joy! But do we view waiting periods outside of Christmas as a time of joy and excitement? Perhaps we endure those other times of waiting as the Israelites did - sometimes with impatience, sometimes turning from God's promises that He will do what He has planned (Isaiah 14:24 NIV), sometimes by taking matters into our own hands because this time of waiting has become too much to endure? What if we viewed other times of waiting in our lives with some of the joy and anticipation we have when waiting during Advent: trusting that God has planned something wonderful for us, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV); spreading the Good News about Christ with everyone we meet; helping others however we are able; being the light in a dark world as God intended us to be.

Everything is very different this year. We have been waiting for weeks and months for life to go back to "normal" so we can carry on with the plans we made. Perhaps, like me, you are tired of waiting and becoming discouraged. I pray that we all may learn from our years of Advent waiting and be content in trusting in our mighty God's plans. "Take heart; [He] has overcome the world!" (John 16:33 NIV)



Thankful for warmer weather and hiking in God's beautiful creation!

### **Please Pray for:**

- Health care providers around the world who tend the sick
- Those who may be struggling, mentally or physically, this holiday season

### **Give Thanks for:**

- All the wonderful ways God continues to provide for us
- You and others who pray for and support me in serving the Lord

Earlier this year, I didn't think I would be home for Thanksgiving. I envisioned myself overseas at this time, sharing God's love with refugees. But God had something different in mind than what I planned. God's ways are not my ways and this year, I'm learning to trust even more in His plans and His (for now) unrevealed reasons. I keep praying that God will soon make the way clear for me to head overseas. But in the meantime, I'll persist in learning how to be thankful and patient in this time of waiting in which God has placed me.

### **Learning Farsi**

The videos I use to teach me the Farsi alphabet always include several vocabulary words for each letter. These vocab words are chosen specifically because they provide examples of how the letter is used and pronounced. However, they are not sorted into any specific grouping, i.e. numbers, animals, household items, etc. Right now, I have made about 212 vocab flashcards and I'm attempting to put them into certain themed groupings to make it easier for me to study them.

Here are some of the words I've been learning:

**Goodbye** = خداحافظی (khodahafezi)

**Example** = مثال (mehsahl)

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](http://www.lcms.org/Krause) or <https://missioncentral.us/Krause/> or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438