

March 2022

Missionary Newsletter

Benjamin and Rebecca Helge,
LCMS Missionaries, serving our Lord in
Havířov-Šumbark, Czech Republic and Eurasia



Ukrainian Refugees

Just down the street from where we are living, schools with dormitories are hosting over 100 refugees from Ukraine. The K4 church plant has reached out to them by offering English conversation. Five different youth have come to English Talk Group (ETG) over the past weeks where we shared English, the Gospel and soup. Four of those teenagers are here without parents. Three of them took the initiative to come from their music academy in Kiev, where they were roommates. Somehow one of them had a contact in Havířov. We had them over to our house for lunch last Friday, prompted by one of them telling us how much he missed having dinner with his parents. They came over and stayed for several hours, drinking coffee, eating together, playing games and playing on the keyboard.



ETG welcomes new students into its "family" no matter where they are from or what they have gone through.

Three mothers and three children came on Monday night for a new conversation group we are offering. Several of us got to know the women there over coffee and tea. There were about five different languages involved, and Becca has to smile when she thinks about how she asked a slew of questions in English to one woman who answered everything in Ukrainian. Luckily, even though there were five different languages, Czech, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian are very similar, so all it takes is a little imagination to figure out what is being said!

Upcoming Mission Week - Ignite

Next week, the K4 team will host a group of Norwegians who will go to schools to do cultural presentations. The hope is that students will then join in some after-school activities to get to know them as well as people from K4. They have been planning this diligently for some time, so pray for the details of this week, as well as students to be receptive to the Gospel.



NORWEGIAN
food! traditions! people!

Kdy? 16:00
KDE? K4, Generála Svobody 280/24,
Havířov-Šumbark
(bývalé zdravotní středisko)

Game * Talk-show * Quiz *

Ochutnávka norských specialit ... a na závěr i něco českého.

Baby Helge

Baby Helge's due date is this Sunday, April 10th. The gynecologist has warned that first time babies can be up to two weeks late, so Becca is not holding her breath. However, Baby Helge could arrive any time now! Please pray for a safe delivery. We're both ready, but Becca is especially ready to stop sharing her body with the estimated 9 pound bundle of joy.



K4 Cafe Update

Much has happened in anticipation of the opening of the café: from the arrival of a real espresso machine and grinder, the continued building of the bar, electrical work completed and a training session on how to make specialty coffee.

Bible Study

Although she planned to stop with Jonah to prep for the baby, the K4 group needed a leader for the next Bible study, so Becca continued with the book of Habakkuk. She highly recommends this as a book for anyone to read right now in light of the war in Ukraine, as it helps to put in perspective God's justice in the long-view of history.



Mirek guides our session on how to operate the espresso machine, steam milk and make latte art.



Middle and high school students gather for Fourth Wednesday in K4.

Join us on Facebook.
Search for **The Helges in CZ**
and request to join.



Youth Group

Youth Group is new this semester and takes place after ETG. One aspect of this time is a special fourth Wednesday of the month with extended music, a message and an invitation to other youth groups in the area to join. Otherwise, on a regular Wednesday we read a passage together from the book of Mark and use a few simple questions to guide our time together: What does this passage say about God, Jesus, and His plan? What does this say about people? How does it change our view of God?



Terka and Veronika practicing their English and creativity at ETG.

One student stands out during this time in recent weeks. She is new to ETG, but has stayed for Youth Group (and gotten her friend to stay as well!) She told us that she was talking with someone in

America on Instagram about prayer. Please pray for her and her growth in faith.

Hosting Friends from Prague

In the last three months, we've had visits from three different groups from Prague. The first group was at the end of February, and it was the new teachers who came to take over Becca's position at the Christian International School of Prague (CISP). They are really enjoying their mission at the school and were encouraged by our weekend together. They plan on staying at CISP for a long time, which also warms Becca's heart. If you're interested in the possibility to serve at CISP in Prague as a GEO missionary with the LCMS, you can find more information at [LCMS.org/serve-now](https://www.lcms.org/serve-now), or ask us directly about it.



Joined by fellow LCMS missionary, Chelsea Irwin, we venture across the border to Poland.

The second group was Becca's good Czech friends from Prague, and it was great to spend time with them! Finally, a friend from Prague came and brought with her a suitcase of baby stuff, as well as her expertise in labor (she's had four kids) and giving birth in a foreign country (three of them born in CZ). Becca feels prepared now.

LiftUp

Ben and the band LiftUp continue to play music in order to lead the church in Silesia in singing. The church youth had an event on April 2 called "Session" with a Christian psychologist who talked about faith and mental health. The band played at the beginning and end. If interested, you can watch the band play [here](#) and [here](#).



Send us your thoughts, prayer requests and any other comments to benjamin.helge@lcms.org or rebecca.helge@lcmsintl.org. Thank you for reading.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.

In Christ,

Benjamin and Rebecca Helge

To financially partner with this ministry, please send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Benjamin Helge." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at www.lcms.org/helge. You can also send your support to my friends at:

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