

News from the Rajek Family

March 2022

In This Issue

- Welcome and Update
- Be Patient
- A Fun Fact About Latvia
- Thank You for Your Support



“To The Ends of The Earth”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

Welcome and Update

Greetings in the name of Christ! Thank you for your continued support in this mission to make Christ known “to the ends of the earth.” As I began my last newsletter, I was hoping to write to you from our new home in Riga, Latvia. Unfortunately, once again, God had other plans as days before our departure, my daughter tested positive for

Covid. Since we all have had the virus, this should not be an issue as we make another attempt to travel. Praise God, we’ve all recovered and that we again were able to reschedule our flights without incurring additional fees. God willing, by the time you read this newsletter, we will have finally arrived in Latvia.



Be Patient

How’s your patience been lately? Is your patience running out? With everything going on in our lives, it can be understandable. Failed plans. The pandemic. Everything costing more. Struggling to make ends meet. Life in a sinful world can sure test our patience.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (Rom 12:12 ESV) St. Paul’s appeal to the Roman Christians is as relevant to my family relationships in 2022 as it was to the first century Christian church. Allow me to explain.

For the past six months, my family and I have been eagerly anticipating our move to Riga, Latvia and beginning our work of teaching others about Jesus. We had gone through OIM (Office of International Mission) orientation in St. Louis. We had spent countless hours traveling through Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin in the NSM (Network Support Missionary) process. We had spoken to multitudes of people, shaken countless hands and drank innumerable cups of coffee.

Finally, we had made it. It was days before our target deployment date when I started to feel a bit ... unwell. A couple of days later I tested positive for Covid. And true to its contagious nature, soon those close to me would succumb to this dastardly virus. So much for our target deployment date!

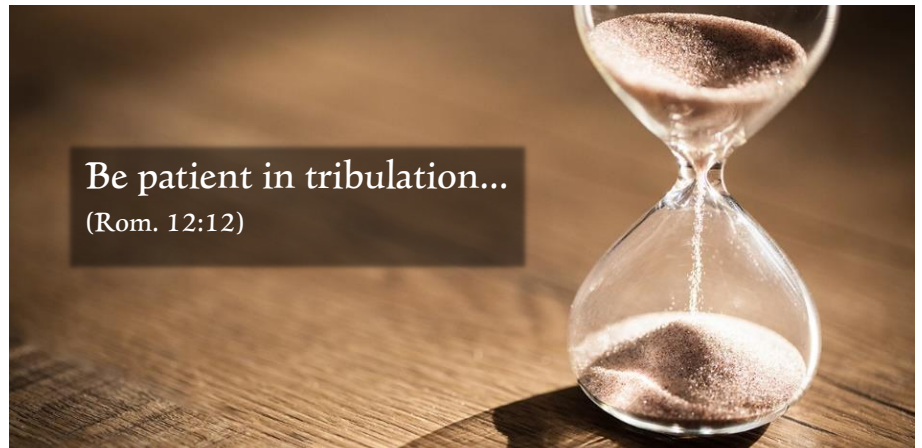
Prayer Requests

- Continued prayers for Luther Academy's students and instructors as we begin a new term.
- For continued growth of Luther Academy.
- A prayer of thanksgiving for all who supported us. For the workers at the Office of International Mission at Synod and for everyone at Mission Central, all of whom worked so hard in helping us get into the field to begin our service.
- Continued prayers for my family especially my kids as they begin a new school and life in a new place.
- For peace in our world and especially in Eurasia.

After spending countless time on the phone with the airline, etc., we were able to push our target deployment date back three weeks. We thought three weeks would allow enough time for us to catch the virus (if we were going to catch it) and fully recover. We were wrong.

So, after spending a lot of time together quarantining, our second deployment date finally arrived. Making our way to the airport, we stopped off to get tested for Covid (a requirement for entering the country). After about 15 minutes, the results came back, the one person in our family who did not have any Covid symptoms the first time, now tested positive for Covid. And so, the process of rescheduling our flights, etc. had begun ... again!

Be patient. These words mean more to me now than ever before.



Be patient when our best laid plans fail. Be patient when we must spend countless hours with teenagers who aren't feeling well. Be patient with a loved one who becomes irritable when spending numerous hours on hold with an airline. Be patient.

Of course, we find reason for our patient behavior in the fact that God is patient with us. In His Son, Jesus Christ, He bore with us in love when He took on our human flesh. His whole life on earth, His every interaction with others and His submissive death on the cross displayed the patient endurance that accomplished our salvation. By His sacrifice, He paid for all our sins of impatience. Through faith in Him, Jesus' life of humility and tireless patience is credited to us.

And even though we stumble, His patience towards us never runs out. He is with us always, forgiving us, reassuring us and enabling us to reflect His perfect patience to those around us, especially to those closest to us.

So, how's your patience been lately?

Resting on God's loving patience in His Son, we can say with confidence that, yes, we have the patience to meet every day's frustrations and challenges. Amen.

Fun Facts About Latvia

Did you know that over half of Latvia's territory is covered with forests? Additionally, approximately one fifth of the country is made up of nature preserves. Though it's roughly the size of West Virginia, Latvia boasts 4 national parks, 42 nature parks and 260 nature reserves. Now consider that Latvia has over 300 miles of coastal beaches, 12,000 river sand over 2,000 lakes not to mention all wildlife contained therein. It's no



A picture of one of Latvia's many beaches. Latvia has more than 300 miles of beaches.

wonder this little country is an ideal destination for outdoor enthusiasts. (Source: <https://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2017/04/21/10-fun-facts-about-latvia-for-kids/>)

Thank You for Your Support



I would like to thank you for your continued support of this very important mission. God continues to do wonderful things in the Eurasia region through the Riga Luther Academy in particular and I'm so thankful for your partnership. A special thank you for the continued work of Missionary Gary and his crew at Mission Central. Praise be to God who continues amazing work through you on behalf of

missionaries around the world.

If you'd like to support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Dr. Cory J. Rajek, you may send a 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 Cory Rajek." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/rajek.

Or You can also send your support to our friends at:



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