

News from the Rajek Family

May 2022

In This Issue

- Welcome
- He...Is Risen!
- Update on the Mission
- 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.”



Here I am recently at a meeting in Wittenberg, Germany. Representatives from our two seminaries, the Evangelical Church of Latvia, the LCMS and Luther Academy met to discuss the possibility of forming a stronger relationship between the entities.

Welcome

Kristus ir augšāmcēlies! These are the Latvian words of Easter proclaiming “Christ is risen!” Welcome to the May 2022 issue of our newsletter. In this issue, you will read about the truth of the resurrection for you, an update on the mission work I’ve been involved in and how you can support this important mission. So, I hope you enjoy this issue and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

He...Is Risen.

He is not here, but has risen. (Luke 24:6 ESV)

Was it the greatest hoax devised by human hands? Did He pass out and later, inside the tomb, recover and escape? Did His followers steal His body and spread the story that He was still alive? Was there a twin brother that made an appearance or two after He died to make everyone think He was alive? Could there have been some sort of mass hypnosis, tricking people into believing that He died and rose again? Could all this be the

Prayer Requests

- God's continued blessings upon the students currently studying to be pastors and church workers through Luther Academy.
- God's continued blessings upon the instructors of Luther Academy as they train these future pastors and church workers.
- For the people of Ukraine as their lives are severely impacted by the war.
- Continued prayers for my family as we adjust to life in Rīga.

product of legend, wishful thinking on the part of weak-minded people? Throughout history, critics have asked questions like the ones above as they pondered our Lord's resurrection. I find it interesting that sometimes people will believe just about anything and everything...except the truth.

The truth is Isaiah places us at Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion when he writes: "he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows ... he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities." (Is 53:4-5 ESV) There is no denying it. No way to rationalize it or explain it away. It was our sins which put Jesus on that cross. And it was His love for us that kept Him on His cross.

Yet, our Savior did not remain there. The truth about Easter is that Jesus rose to life on the third day. And because He rose to life, everything He ever said is absolutely true. Similarly, everything He ever claimed to be, He is. And everything He ever promised will come to pass. This is the reason we who believe in Him live each day in joy. This is the reason we live each day in certainty. This is the reason we carry on. Because Jesus lives, we who believe in Him will live also! There is then every reason to celebrate this victory with a life dedicated to serving God.

My friends, there is no well-designed hoax. No crazy conspiracy. No mass hypnosis. No twin brother. There's only Jesus, lovingly giving His life for you. There's only Jesus, lovingly giving you His victory over sin, death, and the devil. Good Friday and Easter Sunday, it's why our hearts will always be glad, and our tongues always rejoice. Amen.

Update on the Mission

A couple of important events happened recently regarding Luther Academy. The first involves a meeting in Wittenberg, Germany and the second involves Intensive Studies Week (ISW).

First, an important meeting was held in Wittenberg, Germany between representatives from Concordia Seminary—St. Louis, Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne, the LCMS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia and Luther Academy. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a stronger relationship between the organizations. This relationship is important for the future of Luther Academy and the accreditation process in the European Union. I'm happy to report the result of the meeting was very positive, and we are hoping to take the steps necessary to rejoice in our common confession for the foreseeable future.



Here I am preaching at the Old Latin School Chapel for the Luther Academy meeting in Wittenberg, Germany. At this service, I was officially installed as a Theological Educator and missionary in the Eurasia Region.

Second, Luther Academy held its second ISW in Rīga and Saldus, Latvia. During each school year, students are required to attend ISW. The purpose of this important event is both educational and collegial.

The first part of the week was spent in Rīga where the students had the privilege of touring important sites and learning about the history of Lutheranism in Latvia. The second part of the week was spent in Saldus where students took classes from Dr. Arthur Just (from the Fort Wayne seminary) on diakonia and Archbishop Vangs (from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia) on church and ministry.



Students, lecturers and guests take time out for food and fellowship during Intensive Studies Week at Luther Academy in Suldass, Latvia.

Thank You for Your Support



Thank you, thank you, thank you for your ongoing support of this very important mission. God is doing wonderful things in the Eurasia region through the Rīga Luther Academy. Through your support, you are making a difference for Christ. I praise God for the good work He is doing and for your partnership in this mission.

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:



Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to cory.rajek@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.