

News from the Rajek Family

April 2022

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“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 our Savior! As always, thank you for your continued support in this mission to make Christ known “to the ends of the earth.” This month’s newsletter is all about transitions as my family and I, after a couple of delays due to Covid, finally made our way to Rīga, Latvia. As you will read in the following pages everything is going well and we are adjusting to our new surroundings. The Latvian people have been very welcoming, and we thank God for them as we do for all of you.

Transitions

The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV)

We’ve all faced transitions at one point or another. From infancy we’ve transitioned from the perfect surroundings of our mother’s womb to this imperfect world. As we grew, we transition from grammar school to high school and, for many of us, to college and the workforce. Then, perhaps, comes the transition to marriage and the birth of children. Transitions come when we change jobs or move to a new community. And some transitions are easier than others. A transition from one side of town to another can be relatively easier to bear than, say a transition to another culture.

Prayer Requests

- Continued prayers for Luther Academy's students and instructors as we hold our Spring Intensive Studies Week (April 3-8).
- A prayer of thanksgiving for the people who are working on our behalf at the Office of International Mission at Synod and Mission Central.
- Continued prayers for my family as we adjust to our new surroundings.
- For peace in our world and especially in Ukraine.

After a couple of delays, my family and I finally made the transition to Rīga to begin our mission work. Somewhat surprisingly, everything was smooth during our flight (many countries still had Covid restrictions at the time) and we are adjusting quite nicely into our new life. One thing is clear; however, every transition presents us with new challenges and opportunities for growth.



L to R: Cory, Jenny, Emiley and Lexi getting ready to board the plane in Sioux Falls, SD on our way to Rīga, Latvia.

Such was the case for Moses and the Israelites in Deuteronomy 31. If you look at the context, Moses was entering into the last stages of his life. Israel was gathered at the Jordan River ready to enter the Promised Land and God chose Joshua as Moses' successor. For Moses and for Israel, it was truly a time of transition. No doubt Joshua felt overwhelmed by his new responsibilities. But Moses reassures him with the words of our text. "The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV)

It is a good lesson for all of us to remember. Throughout every transition we face, God promises to be present with us. The promise He made through Moses is the same promise He makes to us through His Son. God will "never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV) Everything Jesus did. From His conception to His ascension was aimed at keeping that promise to you. God is faithful no matter where we go and no matter what transition we may encounter. Because Jesus made His transition from the womb to the tomb, we can face all our transitions with faith.

A Fun Fact About Latvia



L to R: Emiley, Lexi, Jenny, and me standing in front of St. Peter's Church in Rīga, birthplace of the Reformation in Latvia.

Did you know that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (ELCL) is one of the oldest Lutheran Church bodies in the world? In 1522, Martin Luther's colleague and friend, Johannes Bugenhagen brought the Reformation to the Latvian people. One year later, the church pledged its adherence to the teachings of the Reformation. This makes the ELCL one of the oldest Lutheran Church bodies in the world! In fact, this year, the

ELCL will be celebrating 500 years of the Reformation in Rīga.



This sign is on near the front door to St. Peter's Church in Riga. A rough translation states:

"Reformation Square

The square is named in honor of the Church's Reformation movement, which was started by Martin Luther in Wittenberg (Germany) in 1517. In 1522, the city of Riga was one of the first in the world to undertake a reformation, appointing Andreas Knopken as a teacher in St. Peter's Church."



This is a picture from a road leading to the historic St. Peter's Church in Riga.

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 Riga Lutheran 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.

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