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Rev. Joseph and Deaconess
Dr. Jennie Asher

We thank you for your prayers and financial support. It is an encouragement to us as we serve the Lord in this place. It is through the generous gifts of friends like you that we can continue to serve military families living abroad. God bless you!

Joe and Jennie Asher

Did you know...

- In Germany, the university is free for everyone.
- There are more football (soccer for North Americans) fan clubs in Germany than anywhere else in the world.
- German is among the 10 most common languages spoken in the world.



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Salt and Light

“You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world” (Matthew 5: 13-14). These are the words of the Gospel lesson read during our joint service with our sister German (SELK) congregation (Selbständige Evangelisch – Lutherische Kirche or Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in English) on August 11. In this annual joint service, the hymns were sung by alternating verses between German and English. Readings were read in both languages. The liturgy alternated between the two, except the Lord's Prayer which was done in unison, but each in his/her own language. Vicar Jensen preached, first in English and then in German.

At the conclusion of the service, Vicar Jensen presented our new vicar, Ryan Schnake, with a salt-shaker and a lantern, gifts that were given him at his installation a year earlier. “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.”

Looking around, we could see a bit of the world to which we are salt and light. Besides our German brothers and sisters, our KELC (Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church) congregation has begun to take on an international flair. Regularly attending are Americans, Germans, Canadians, a Brit, and three students from India.



Joe, Vicar Jensen and Rev. Wienecke (SELK Pastor) lead the joint German/English worship service

We now have plans to bring more salt and light to our area with three new initiatives beginning this fall. First, Joe will try to start a Bible study at the local university. Several Indian students have been attending KELC and will help with this initiative. In addition, our new vicar will begin an early morning Bible study on one of the bases for soldiers after their PT (Physical Training). Finally, we are putting together a group that will explore opportunities for mercy work in the Kaiserslautern community and/or in the military community.

Please keep these new initiatives in your prayers. Pray for wisdom to discern God's leading and strength to do His Will. There is much to do, but His grace is sufficient for us, for His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12: 9).

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our four catechumens starting classes this fall, and the students participating in Jennie's pre-confirmation class for grades 3-5.*
- *Families who "PCsed" (moved) to our area this summer. That they would find KELC to be a place to grow in their love for Christ.*
- *New Bible study initiatives on base and at the university.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Safe and successful trips to the National Youth Gathering and to our regional meeting in the Ukraine.*
- *Jennie's tentative job offer.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us.*

Welcome Vicar Schnake

On Sunday, August 18, Joe installed the second vicar at Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC). Ryan Schnake (pronounced *shnah kee*), 28, is a native of Wisconsin but comes to us from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Ryan also serves as a Chaplain Candidate (1st Lieutenant) in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Through some connections, Ryan will be allowed to drill monthly with an Army Reserve unit near KELC.

Ryan began his vicarage on August 1. Since then he's been busy getting to know families in the congregation, dealing with government paperwork,

meeting his new drill commander, getting a bank account, and all the "business" one must tend to after moving. This was followed by a week-long trip to Odessa, Ukraine (along with Joe and Jennie) for our annual regional meeting.

Ryan is engaged to a young lady from central Illinois. She graduated from Fontbonne University of St. Louis last fall and recently completed her first semester of graduate coursework there in Deaf Education. In his spare time, Ryan enjoys sports, weight-lifting, fishing, woodworking, cooking, and gardening. He is the youngest of four children.

We pray that Ryan's vicarage year will be fruitful for him and a blessing to KELC. We thank the Lord for the gift of Ryan's service!



Joe installs Ryan Schnake as KELC Vicar

Great News!

Jennie has received a tentative job offer from the Department of Defense Education Agency. It is a ½ time position to teach grades 3-5 Special Education. She is currently in the process of completing paperwork and background checks. We wait for an official offer when that process is completed (weeks or months from now). Thank you for your prayers this past year as she searched for work. Please continue to pray that the approval process goes smoothly.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Joe Asher, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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