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Rev. Joseph and Deaconess  
Dr. Jennie Asher

## Did you know...

- *Osterbrunnen* (Easter fountains) have begun to appear near us. Many towns, especially in Southern Germany, decorate their city's fountain with evergreens and colorful Easter eggs.
- Germany is known for their Christmas markets. But from February to Easter *Ostermarkts* are held every weekend. Among other things, shoppers can buy beautifully decorated eggs (and chocolates, of course!)
- Not to be outdone by the German Christmas tree, many Germans decorate an *Ostereierbaum* (Easter egg tree). This is typically done on Good Friday.



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## Getting What We Need

This past Tuesday morning, Joe was surprised by a record Bible class attendance of eight men in brown prison jumpsuits. He thanked them all for coming, as each prisoner has the “freedom” to choose whether to attend this “Christianity 101” class.



The focus for the lesson was John 11 and Jesus’ raising of Lazarus from the dead. Joe planned to teach about how God helps us when we face death, but the men took him off the rails and put him on their track when they raised the question, “Why did Jesus delay *two days* before going to help this family in Bethany?”

It’s a good question. If Jesus had started for Bethany immediately when he heard Lazarus was sick, the man would not have died.

But Jesus told His disciples (verse 14), “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.”

Jesus is glad that he didn’t prevent Lazarus’ death? So that they would believe?

So the men pressed the question, “Why did Jesus wait three days?” Then the group discussed the fact that God doesn’t give us what we want, instead He gives us what we *need*.

And here’s the point. No one ever wants to face the death of a loved one. But for His glory, and so that many would put their faith in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life (John 11: 25-26), Jesus gave everyone what they needed. And that was to suffer the pain of Lazarus’ death, and then see the victory over death which Jesus our Savior provided in this chapter.

And this also relates to incarceration (or whatever hardship we may face). No sane person ever wants pain, but sometimes God gives this to us in our lives so that we seek His help, go another direction in the Holy Spirit’s power, and deepen our faith in Christ, who is our Help and our Redeemer.

Please continue to pray that these men will continue to hear the Good News of Christ’s love for them, and that they will come to trust Him as their Savior.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Jennie's job application process, that she would find a new position soon.
- Four of our youth, another adult and Jennie, as they prepare to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July, for successful fundraisers and that this would be a time for a deepening of faith for all participants.

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- That Joe was granted access to the day room at the prison in order to interact with the men 1:1.
- Ten Jr. and Sr. High youth active in fellowship and Bible study.
- New members and an upcoming infant baptism.

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

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



## New Pastor Installed in Frankfurt

We are pleased to announce that we have a new colleague in Germany! Rev. Gary Schuschke, formerly from Oviedo, FL, was installed as pastor of our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, on March 17. Pastor Schuschke will serve this international congregation in much the same way that Joe serves KELC. In addition to having another

pastor nearby for fellowship, we are now having monthly meetings with Pastor Schuschke for a study of the Lutheran Confessions and God's Word. This is truly a blessing for us!

## Lenten Services

We began the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service at our home. Jennie made a soup and salad dinner for everyone prior to the worship service. We managed to put 22 people in our small apartment, with a record 12 children around our dinner table! What a joy it was to hear the little feet dancing in the living room, followed by our singing of hymns.

We are now preparing for our Holy Week services and again bringing a taste of "home" to our members. The children will process with palms and sing in our Palm Sunday worship service. On Maundy Thursday, our youth will have a special Communion service in place of their monthly Bible study, with the whole congregation invited. A Tenebrae service will be held on Good Friday evening. Of course, our remembrance of our Lord's passion and resurrection will culminate with a joyous Easter morning worship service. Please pray that these services will be both edifying for our members and a good witness for our visitors.

*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*



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](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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