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Rev. Joseph and Deaconess
Dr. Jennie Asher

Did you know?

- Germans are among the most avid recyclers. According to a BBC survey, Germany had the third highest recycling rate in the world (behind Switzerland and Austria).
- In Germany everything is closed on Sundays (except restaurants and gas stations).
- Parents are not allowed to homeschool in Germany.
- The school summer break in our state in Germany lasted for six weeks in July and August.
- The average high temperature in Kaiserslautern in August is 75 and 68 in September.
- Oktoberfest (in Munich) actually begins in September and ends the first Sunday of October.



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2015 - Joe arriving in Ankara, Turkey

A New Season

As we write this, a new season has just begun. The weather is cooler, leaves are painting the landscape and flowing to the ground. The calendar tells us that it is fall.

However, for us another season has begun. A season of change. As most of you have heard by now, we will be leaving our work in Germany and ending our time as missionaries. After 36 years in the ministry, Joe will be retiring the end of December.

As you know, Jennie has been looking for full-time work for some time now. In July a principal whom she worked with 18 years ago at a school in Minnesota contacted her and offered her a teaching position. She left Kaiserslautern on July 24 to spend a two-week quarantine with her sister, followed by a week in Chicago going through some of our storage. She began work in Minnesota on August 14 and is co-teaching a 1st-3rd grade class as a Special Education teacher.



2020 - Jennie arriving in Chicago

Since the job and subsequent move came up quickly, we decided to delay Joe's return to the U.S. until December. This will allow the LCMS Office of International Mission more time to find his replacement.

We thank you, our supporters, for your fervent prayers and faithful support during our six years as missionaries. God has truly provided for us through you. We appreciate your continued support through the end of our service (March 2021). If you would like more information on how you can continue to support the work at KELC or the work in another location, please contact Michelle Beckmann or Julie Loehring at the LCMS (888-930-4438) or Gary Thies or Brent Smith at Mission Central (712-882-1029). God bless you as you continue to serve Him!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our time away from each other. That God will sustain each of us and help us grow closer to Him and each other.*
- *The eight youth confirmands and one adult who are studying the faith with Joe.*
- *Our youth Sunday School class of 15 students, that God would provide their teachers wisdom and insight into His Word.*
- *The sale of our house in Chicago, that all would go smoothly and that a buyer would come quickly.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *That God has provided work for Jennie in Minnesota.*
- *A return to our “pre-COVID” worship attendance.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

The Ministry at KELC

By God’s grace, the ministry at KELC continues to grow! While we had four families move away this summer, we have now had five new families move in. Our worship attendance is back to the level it was before COVID restrictions, albeit with social distancing practices in place. Because of the German guidelines for distancing, we have begun to offer two services each weekend. This allows for all of our families to attend worship with room left for visitors.

Our Sunday School looks different, with children separated from one another. With nearly 40 children, some of our classes required creative placement. The adults also sit 1 ½ meters from other couples or individuals, and there is no singing.

Joe is also teaching confirmation class for eight students. He will be teaching the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Supper before he leaves in December. Once a month our youth group of 15 junior high and high school students meets for Bible study (led by Joe) and a fellowship activity.

KELC may sound and look like your congregation. But we are a home away from home for families who are so far from home while serving our country and for university students and professors far from home. In a country where so many things are unfamiliar, every week our members worship through the liturgy and hymns. They hear the truths of God’s Word preached. They have opportunity to share joys and struggles with others in their KELC “family.” Thank you for helping to provide this for them.



Joe teaches youth Bible study after a hike to a castle.



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:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—
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Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/asher or <https://missioncentral.us/asher>

You may also send your gift to:
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