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Rev. Joseph and Deac. Dr. Jennie Asher

DID YOU KNOW?

- Munich's Oktoberfest is the world's biggest folk festival.
- Germany is the world's second largest beer consumer. The Czechs are first.
- Germany was the first country in the world to adopt Daylight Savings Time. It started during WWI as a way to conserve energy.
- Last year, October 31 was a national holiday in Germany to celebrate the Reformation. This year it is a normal business day.



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Teaching the Word

We are well into the school year, and that means that the Christian Education programs at Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) are in full swing.

We began the school year on September 8 with our second annual Sunday School teachers' fall workshop. Nearly 15 teachers and substitutes attended to learn more about God's Word and how to communicate it effectively to children. Joe led discussions on teaching Law and Gospel. Besides working with a member to organize the event, Jennie taught sessions on "Teaching the Way Jesus Taught", faith development in children and questioning techniques. This year a member also led sessions as we seek to get more members involved in leadership.

Sunday School began on September 9 with 38 students registered, 8 teachers team teaching. This fall the children are learning Old Testament lessons about Joseph, Moses, and the Israelite people in the wilderness. Soon they will learn about the Passover by participating in a Seder "meal." Jennie is again teaching them music each Sunday and has organized a memory work program for them to learn Bible verses and parts of Luther's Small Catechism.

During the Sunday School hour, the Vicar is learning about how

to teach the faith. He is currently helping Joe teach the adults, but in December he'll begin 6 weeks in each class, first observing the teachers and then teaching by himself. His first stop? The nursery!

About 26 adults attend our Adult Bible study. This group is studying the Lord's Prayer and will soon begin a unit on evangelism.

A new venture this year is the start of a youth group for our nine youth (grades 7-12). The fun will begin Sunday, October 28, with a trip to "Fun Forrest" for ropes climbing, zip lining and more. Joe will be leading the youth in a devotion and watch the rest of the fun from the sideline!

Please pray for our Christian Education programs. Pray that all will continue to take the opportunity to study God's Word with their fellow believers. Pray for us as we teach and lead. Most of all, pray that all will grow in their love for the Lord!



Joe leads a discussion on Law and Gospel for the Sunday School teachers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our application process for gate access to the local U.S. Air Force base, as we appeal a decision that denies this access. We will also begin next month the renewal of our Army base access.*
- *Our application process for visa renewal, which we will begin in November.*
- *Jennie's job application process, that she would find a new position soon.*
- *That Joe would be granted access to the day room at the prison.*
- *Relief from pain for Jennie as she deals with a bone spur on her heel.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Strong U.S. military families who supply leadership and service at KELC.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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



Prison Ministry

As most of our readers know, each week Joe teaches a class at Correctional Facility of the U.S. Army. The facility houses men or women, but Joe has had only men in his class. The men are

active duty military, who are incarcerated for the same things as the general American population, such as public intoxication, drug use, reckless driving or gang activity. They may also be incarcerated for military crimes, such as Absent Without Leave or failure to obey a lawful order.

It is in this difficult time that the men are offered the opportunity to study God's Word and to pray with Joe. The class is offered as a "Christianity 101" class, covering the basics of the Christian faith and how it relates to our lives today. The focus of discussion often centers on getting through a crisis. The men ask basic questions, such as "Is Christianity easy or hard?" or "On what basis does God forgive sins?", but sometimes the questions are more personal, like "Why would God love someone who has lived like hell his whole life?"

The Lord is richly blessing this work, as the class has been well received by both the men and the staff. The men discuss his topics after he goes home and always have more questions the next week. One man, a Muslim who regularly attends the class, has even asked Joe to come on another day to talk with him privately. Thanks be to God that he is open to hearing what God's Word has to say to him.

We pray that this ministry will continue to grow. The vicar may teach another class on a different day of the week. The chaplain at the facility is in the process of asking for Joe to be able to visit the day room so that he can get to know the men better and visit with them individually. This will, of course, include playing chess and talking about baseball! ☺

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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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