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Rev. Joseph and Deaconess
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As the calendar turns to November, we are approaching the Thanksgiving holiday and the season of Christ's birth. Our hearts turn to joyful thanksgiving and gift giving.

We are thankful for your prayers and financial support for this vibrant ministry in Germany. 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 communicate the Good News to military families and students living abroad as well as to Germans. As you consider your year-end giving, we ask that you would think and pray about a generous gift to our German-American ministry. God bless you!

Joe and Jennie Asher



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Growing in the Faith

Paul writes in his letter to Timothy, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:14-15). At Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) we are excited about the education initiatives which have begun. This past August we were surprised to learn of the great interest in confirmation and pre-confirmation classes in our congregation. We now have seven youth in confirmation class beginning their instruction in Luther's Small Catechism with a focus on the first article of the Apostles' Creed. We also have five students from the 3rd-6th grades learning about worship, the Bible, and the catechism in our pre-confirmation class.

Beyond this, we are meeting with nine high school teens in our youth group. Further, the younger Sunday School children continue to enthusiastically hear Bible stories, sing God's Word in music, and take it to heart in their weekly memory work. The adult Sunday School class is studying "Encounters with Jesus", with lessons such as Jesus with the woman at the well, Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus,



Joe baptizes a new child of God

and Jesus' interaction with the man born blind.

One of our members, interested in home Bible studies has begun a study on the book of Romans, complete with food, fellowship and fun. We also have three students from Kaiserslautern Technical University who have a hope of starting a prayer and study ministry with students, many of whom are far from home.

Part of our Lutheran Heritage, and one of the three pillars of the Lutheran Reformation, is *Sola Scriptura*. Lutherans have long known that God's revealed Word is the foundation of our Christian life and faith. To this end, we rejoice that God has stirred up great interest in His holy Scripture, which is able to make us wise unto salvation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our seven catechumens and five students in pre-confirmation class, that they will continue to grow in their knowledge of the Lutheran faith and their love for their Savior.*
- *New Bible study initiatives on base and at the university.*
- *Volunteers to take on officer positions in January.*
- *Jennie's job search process.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *An upcoming visit from Rev. Craig Muehler (Chaplain USN, retired), Director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, where he will give us insight into ministry to the Armed Forces.*
- *A vibrant youth group, meeting twice per month.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

Advent

At first glance, one might assume that Advent is a very important time in German culture. Since early October, the stores are filled with Advent calendars of all shapes and sizes. There is the basic number-type calendar where a number is added or taken away as a “countdown” for each of the 24 days of December. There is the ever-popular chocolate type where a window is opened each day to reveal another piece of chocolate, bringing us ever closer to the sweet day of Christmas. But in Germany, Advent calendars go way beyond the expected.



Beer Advent Calendars

In our grocery store there is an entire section of Advent calendars with a treasure trove of “gifts” for each day of December. We can choose one with make-up, bath products, men’s products, Legos or other toys. There is a plethora of food – from chocolate to gummi bears to tea or coffee and even cans of Pringles potato chips! We could get a calendar with treats for our cat, or even a different craft beer for every day in December!

The problem is that these calendars count down to a day of gift giving and family celebrations, and often the greatest gift, our Lord Jesus Christ, is forgotten. As the numbers get down to the single digits, stress sets in as the list of “things to do” seems mountainous. Some Germans plan to make their annual appearance at worship on Christmas Eve, but most are focused on Christmas markets, Glühwein (German mulled wine), and shopping.

Through His Holy Spirit, God has given believers an understanding of the real “reason for the season.” With your gifts and prayers, the ministry you support is getting the Good News of Jesus out to a land in darkness. We are working hard to communicate the Good News. Thank you for your good work in support of this mission.

Update

Jennie was informed in early October that the job she was offered will instead be given to a military spouse. We have appealed this decision and are awaiting further information. Meanwhile, Jennie continues to seek employment. Please pray for us to have patience and acceptance of God’s will in this area of our lives.



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—Missouri Synod.

Mark checks “Support of - Asher.” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/asher.

You may also send your gift to:
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