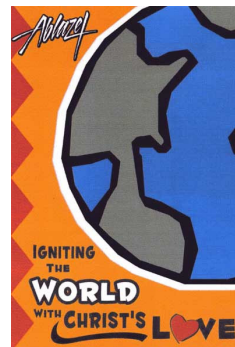


***"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." – Ecclesiastes 4:12***



Dear Friends in Christ,

HE IS RISEN! We hope this Easter(ish) newsletter finds you well – enjoying the reminder of the Easter victory as well as the warmer days of spring. Things are going really well here as we participate in lots of school and local activities and start thinking about our transition back to the States.

Church Group Cameos

March brought some new experiences as we visited two youth groups in nearby villages. In Gumna and Goleszow, Team Cieszyn (Jon, Jodi, and Jordan) led a discussion and Bible study about dating. While not the easiest topic to tackle with a group or relatively unfamiliar young people, the students seemed receptive and we enjoyed the opportunity to share. Another challenge was that the students' ages ranged from about fourteen to twenty years old. Still, God helped us through, and we pray that He was glorified through those times of fellowship. It was a treat to see the faith and commitment of these students (they meet on Friday nights!) and were impressed by some of the activities they are attempting, such as the development of a Christian lending library based out of the youth center. Please pray for these young people as they continue to grow in their faith and serve God and His Church.

Berlin Exchange

In addition to the times of fellowship we shared with students in nearby towns, we also had the opportunity to spend an extended period of time with some of our second year students and students from their partner school in Berlin. This partnership has existed for about seven years and allows the students to spend a week in Germany and to host German students for a week in Poland. The trip was a great time of sightseeing, learning about historical events in the area (interesting enough to even keep Jordan's attention), and building friendships with our German hosts. We thank God for keeping everyone safe and for His blessing on the relationships that have been forged between the students from Poland and Germany.

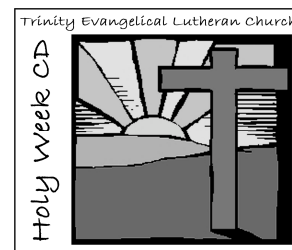
Easter Celebrations with Family and Friends

Last year we were able to spend our Easter with Jon's parents and grandparents. While we missed them this year, we made the best of the holiday away from home with a little potluck Easter feast. After church, we J's (Jon, Jodi, Jordan) pooled our various culinary efforts to produce a mighty tasty meal. Though we didn't have a traditional Easter egg hunt, we did embark on a Scrabble marathon that will go down in the history books. Well, maybe not the history books, but it did last a while. On the second day of Easter (both Sunday and Monday are considered holidays here), we visited our principal and her family. Her college-age children kept us entertained and even took us out to play foosball and darts, in between great meals prepared by their mom.

Easter Celebrations at School

We had a great time preparing for Easter, both in our classes and at home. At school, we organized Easter egg hunts with several of our classes. In exchange for the eggs they found, students were given prizes ranging from candy to Christian pins to footballs. Many of the prizes we distributed were possible because of our supporters' gifts and inspiration, including: many types of books sent from kind supporters in the States, crocheted cross bookmarks from Carol Thurman in St. Louis; Easter CDs created by Trinity Lutheran-Springfield, IL; Arch Easter books purchased with a missionary discount from Concordia Publishing; and pins donated by Our Savior Lutheran-Springfield, IL. The





students were genuinely appreciative of the gifts and are making use of them. Thank you for enabling us to share God's Word in a fun way.

We had the opportunity to decorate Easter eggs with some of our classes, using egg kits brought by friends from the States. We also baked and decorated a lot of Easter cookies. Jordan and Jodi had several marathon decorating sessions, and we were able to share the cookies with lots of people. As we said earlier, we also gave out Easter CDs from Trinity-Springfield. We made over 100 copies of their Easter CD and gave them out to many appreciative students and teachers. We felt they were a good witness about Jesus' death and resurrection.

Pen Pals

Over the past month we have been trying to set pen pals between some of our SPTE and GTE students here and students going to Our Savior-Springfield. We hope this will create lasting friendships between young Christians in two parts of the world that we have come to know rather well.

Planning for the Year Ahead

As we write this newsletter, there are no volunteers lined up for Cieszyn next year. After over ten years of having volunteers here, it is beginning to look like this spot may go empty next year. While it is too early to say anything definitively, we would ask that you keep this mission site in your prayers.

If you or someone you know, might be interested in serving here, please refer them to the World Mission website (www.lcmsworldmission.org) or to us. We'd be happy to answer any of their questions through email (polishpioneers@yahoo.com) or on Skype (username: polishpioneers).

Generous Supporters

We continue to be astounded by your generosity and kindness to us and to our students. We continue to receive books that are building quite an impressive little library at our schools. Specifically, we would like to thank Our Savior and Trinity Lutheran Schools in Springfield for their book donations. Additionally, we would like to thank Gary Tate, a short-term volunteer in Poland last year, who recently sent a large shipment of books. We're so excited about the many books that have come to Poland and the message that it communicates about how much they are cared for by people who love the Lord. For the significance and magnitude of your gifts, we are deeply grateful.

Also, we thank you for supporting us during our two years in Poland. We have received all of the financial support that we need for our time here, but if you feel led to support other volunteers, donations can still be sent to LCMS Mission Senders * 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd. * St. Louis, MO 63122. We are blessed to have such caring and giving supporters of our work here.

Prayers and Praises

In addition to the prayers and praises listed earlier, we would also like to lift up:

- * Jordan's mom's upcoming visit to Poland – may it be a safe and fun time
- * our seniors as they take their final exams and begin to make plans for the coming year
- * our attentiveness to God's plan as we plan our upcoming move back to the States
- * the generous supporters of God's work around the world
- * times of fellowship with colleagues and students

Thank you, God, that through the resurrection of Jesus, You have overcome death and given all of us eternal life with You.

Jordan and Jonathan Benning

Photos: (page 1) White Cross in Mountains near Cieszyn, Old Rotunda Chapel in Cieszyn, Our Easter Eggs, Prague Old Market Square at Easter (page 2) Reichstag in Berlin, Potsdam Palace with Students, Bus Going to Berlin, Communist Art in Berlin, Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin

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