

SERVING THE LORD IN

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

News from the Teeple Family



August 2026

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7



Sign up for our newsletter!

Send an email with your contact information to gina.teeple@lcms.org or use the QR code below:



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."

We Plant, We Water, God Gives the Growth

When we first arrived in Germany, we knew we were stepping into a new chapter. New places, people, language, responsibilities, and rhythm of life. But it didn't take long to realize that we were not actually beginning something new! We were stepping into something that had already been underway for a long time.

Trinity Lutheran, the congregation where Jeff serves, will celebrate its 70th anniversary next year. Seventy years of worship, prayer, preaching, baptisms, meals, friendships, struggles, and faithful witness. Seventy years of people serving for a season and then passing the work on to someone else. We have simply been welcomed into a story that began long before we arrived—and, God willing, will continue long after we leave.

St. Paul captures this beautifully in 1 Corinthians 3:6–7: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." There is something wonderfully freeing about those words. Paul and Apollos had real work to do. They planted. They watered. They served faithfully. But they were never the source of the growth. **That belongs to God.**

This has become an important way for us to understand our own missionary service. We are not here to build something that belongs to us. We are participating in the *missio Dei*—the mission of God. God was at work in Germany before we arrived. He is at work through the people who served here before us. He is at work through the missionaries and congregations today. And He will continue His work after our particular season of service comes to an end.

And that means something for all of us. That takes a lot of pressure off us! **It's all in God's hands!**

You do not have to move across the ocean to participate in God's mission. Every prayer offered, every word of encouragement shared, every gift given, every person welcomed, and every act of faithful service can become part of what God is doing. Some plant. Some water. Some harvest. Often, we may never know what fruit came from the small thing we were able to do. **But God gives the growth.**

So this month, we invite you to see yourselves not simply as people supporting our work, but as fellow participants in God's work. When you pray for us, you are joining us in the mission. You are encouraging us. You are helping make ministry possible. Together, we step into a story that is much bigger than any one missionary, congregation, or generation. And what a joy it is to be part of what He is doing!

We plant. We water. God gives the growth!

2026 Eurasia Family Retreat



Friends and Coworkers *in Christ*

Each year, missionaries from across the Eurasia region come together for a family retreat. This was our first time attending the retreat, and one of the greatest blessings was hearing about the work God is doing through missionaries in the region. Each person and place has a unique story, and it was incredible to hear how God is opening doors for the Gospel and using His people in so many different ways! We were encouraged by their faithfulness, challenged by their experiences, and reminded that we are part of a much larger family of believers.

Of course, the retreat also gave us time to rest, worship together, learn from one another, and simply enjoy being in fellowship with people who understand the joys and challenges of serving on the mission field. We came away feeling incredibly grateful—not only for the warm welcome we received, but for the opportunity to be part of this community and to see firsthand how God is at work throughout Eurasia!



ABOVE: Rev. Dr. David Preus, Regional Director of the Eurasia Region, giving updates on what is happening in the Eurasia region, and Jeff preaching at a worship service.

Eurasia missionaries serve in the following regions:



- Western Europe-British Isles (France, Belgium, England, and Ireland)
- Central Europe (Confessional Lutheran Alliance, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia)
- Southwestern Europe (Italy, Switzerland, and Austria)
- Southeastern Europe (Romania, Hungary, Moldova, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey)
- Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Pakistan)
- Spain and Portugal
- Germany (Persian Project, Expat Project, Muslim Outreach, Ukrainian Refugee Outreach, Wittenberg Project)
- Norway and Iceland
- Nordic Dioceses (Sweden and Finland)
- Baltics (Latvia and Lithuania)
- Russian-Speaking Churches (Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia)
- Israel and the Middle East

Installation Sunday!

August 23rd



After almost 2 ½ years of vacancy, Trinity celebrated Installation Sunday by welcoming Dr. David Preus, Rev. Charles Ferry and Rev. Nathaniel Jensen. The children's choir sang and we had a special time of fellowship following the service!



It is good, Lord, to be here!

One of the special opportunities we had recently was taking part in Trinity Lutheran Church's annual outdoor worship service at Lohrberg Park. With the Frankfurt skyline stretching out behind us, we gathered for worship on a beautiful day and were able to praise God in the midst of His creation. After the service, we had a picnic, enjoying good food and fellowship. It was a wonderful time to grow in our faith and strengthen our relationships with one another, but it was also a unique opportunity to share Christ with the community around us. As we sang hymns and Jeff preached, people passing through the park stopped to listen. It was a beautiful reminder that God can use even a simple gathering in a park to plant seeds and draw people to Him!

*Worship
in the park*



Prayer Requests and Praises

Please pray with us!

- We are praying for Gina as she begins to make connections in the region here and in the US across the sea. We pray for her work with the upcoming Germany FORO group and the FORO event in September that God would work through this group to increase His kingdom and mission. We pray for safe travels and for a lively visit.
- We are praying for the two people we have in adult confirmation class – one that, hopefully, will lead to a baptism and one who is recommitting to God's people after a long absence.
- We are praying for the frequent visitors we see at Trinity Lutheran, many of whom are German nationals who have not been to worship or even inside a church building for many years. We pray that God would touch their lives in a winsome way through our work, and that they would follow His call to return.
- We are praying for God's help as we navigate the Visa application process in Germany.

Update loading...



Elliot officially started his senior year! So far, things are going well. He said he will be able to provide a better update in next month's newsletter, after he has been in classes a little longer. 😊

Gina has been increasingly stepping into her role as Communications Project Manager. She was able to meet with the rest of the Eurasia Projects Team at the Eurasia Family Retreat. She is genuinely grateful to be working with such a talented, supportive group of people! She will be focusing primarily on FOROs in her new role, so she is excited to attend her first FORO at the end of September. More updates on that next month!



Living in Oberursel feels a bit like having the best of both worlds. It's a friendly, easygoing town just north of Frankfurt, with a lovely town plaza, plenty of green space, and the Taunus hills right on the doorstep. One of the town's perks is its annual soap box derby race (see below). In fact, the first recorded gravity-powered soap box race (known as Seifenkistenrennen in German) took place in Oberursel in 1904!

Frankfurt is a short trip away, so we can enjoy the peace and charm of a smaller town without giving up the shops, restaurants, and buzz of the city. It's the kind of place that feels welcoming, comfortable, and pleasantly down-to-earth!



Please prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support our work in Germany! Checks can be made payable to:

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

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

OR



Please include the words 'Teeple - Germany' on the memo line. You can also give securely using the QR code above, or at lcms.org/givenow/teeple. Questions or concerns? Please contact a donor care representative at (888) 930-4438.