



Landstuhl, Germany  
October 28, 2024

Dear friends,

By far the most exciting news in the last few months has been the birth of our Cecilia Monica Helena Jensen on August 29th. She was baptized on September 4th at Wednesday Vespers before Confessions Study, where we discussed the Augsburg Confession and Apology on Baptism. St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music. St. Monica is the mother of St. Augustine and is commemorated on August 27th (so we planned to use that name regardless). At the last minute, we added Helena. St. Helena is the mother of Emperor Constantine. She traveled to the Holy Land and supposedly found the true cross, which is why Holy Cross Day is celebrated on September 14th. All this was on our minds around the birth of Cecilia, which is why we named her what we did. We're getting used to being a family of four. Agatha is excited to have a baby sister and is learning to be gentle.

On Holy Cross Day, we drove to Schillersdorf, France (in the Alsace region), for the ordination and installation of a friend from the seminary in Oberursel. Frederic's mother is German and his dad is Belgian, so he grew up with a command of both German and French. Frederic's wife is from Iceland, and Agatha loves playing with their daughter. For the past year, Frederic has been vicar of our friend, Pastor Garry Heinz, in Woerth and Lembach, France. It was an honor to participate in the ordination with brother pastors from the Synod of France, as well as with Pastor Tyler McMiller, our LCMS missionary to Rome, Italy. He was in town to present at the mission festival at Lembach the following day, which Agatha and I attended. After the ordination, we rushed back to Kaiserslautern to celebrate our own Divine Service for Holy Cross Day. We arrived as the bells were tolling for the service about to begin. I'm thankful to have diligent elders and a vicar to help out and even step in if I'm held up.

In early October, we returned to France for the funeral of Dr. John Warwick Montgomery. Pastor Heinz provided spiritual care at the end of Dr. Montgomery's life and held the funeral in French and English. Last October, I was so excited to meet Dr. Montgomery for the first time at an English service in Woerth, France. I've come to admire his work. Less than a year later, I attended his funeral and was reminded how quickly God can call us home.

Several military members moved back to the U.S. over the summer, including Chaplain and Camille Ayers. Along with several other members, we attended Chaplain Ayers' "Change of Stole" ceremony. It was like a change of command ceremony, but for a chaplain. We were proud to see one of our own praised for his good work over the last four years. It was also great to meet local Army chaplains and even the U.S. Army Command Chaplain for all of Europe and Africa.

At the end of summer, we were able to receive three boxes of Ukrainian children's Bibles from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. We passed them out to Ukrainian children at Rhema Cafe and sent the rest to the orphanage with members who were visiting. We hope to organize another trip there in the next few months with Pastor Honcharuk, the Ukrainian pastor in Wittenberg.

For the first time since serving as pastor at KELC, I took a break from teaching adult Bible Study to give our Riga Luther Academy vicar, Tobias Röhrs, the opportunity to teach on 1 Timothy. I spent the month of October teaching the middle school-aged children in Sunday School. It was a welcome excuse to spend more time with our young people. My plan is to switch classes with the vicar or an elder once or twice per year to get to know the younger members of the congregation.

Starting this school year, a homeschool family from the congregation has been coming over every Tuesday for Latin instruction. Other members of the congregation are also stepping up to enrich the curricula of homeschoolers in our congregation. In addition, we've started offering Latin vespers every Wednesday evening before Confessions study for the homeschoolers and theology students to keep up with their Latin. We use a Latin Lutheran hymnal, the "Cantionale Lutheranum," published by Matthew Carver.

At the end of September, we had our quarterly Altar Guild/Acolyte/Usher breakfast as a thank-you to all who serve in our congregation. After a potluck breakfast, we had a devotion on angels in preparation for St. Michael and All Angels Day. Then, we broke into groups (altar guild, acolytes, ushers) to review how things go and answer any questions. Our regular breakfasts have gone a long way in uniting our congregation around God's Word and the Lutheran liturgy.

At the beginning of October, I was interviewed on "The Gottesdienst Crowd" podcast by Rev. Jason Braaten on the history of the SELK (our German partner church). If you'd like to listen, you can download episode 414. The Title is: "Roots of Resilience: The Story of SELK." I was pretty nervous, seeing as this was my first podcast. Since the program aired, I've received several inquiries for more resources and for additional interviews. A lapsed Lutheran from southern Germany is interested in meeting up to see about possibilities for coming back into the Lutheran Church from Latin-rite Roman Catholicism. Praise the LORD!

At the beginning of August, I was promoted to "Area Facilitator" for southern and western Europe. I now oversee the missionaries and projects in Germany, Italy, France and Spain. The Area Facilitator for northern and eastern Europe is the Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff. He and I meet with Regional Director David Preus weekly to discuss possibilities in the region. As part of my new position, I traveled to the convention (Assemblia) of the Spanish Evangelical Lutheran Church outside of Toledo, Spain. I took along one of my catechumens, who is a native Spaniard. He has been heavily involved with Spanish Lutheranism online for the last few years and served as my translator during the trip.

When I returned from Spain, my in-laws picked me up from the airport. They are visiting us from South Africa for a few weeks. We were able to take a road trip to Scandinavia and see the places where our families came from (Emma is part Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian, and I'm part Danish). We visited Emma's great-uncle in Copenhagen, Denmark, and went to church at our partner church congregation in Oslo, Norway, where I was able to catch up with some old exchange student friends and meet some new ones as well. Pastor Bill Beck was able to fill in for me. He works in missile defense and comes to our area periodically. He was just ordained in July, so I was looking forward to having him deepen his connection with our congregation by serving at the altar. Pastor Garry Heinz from France and Pastor Domenichelli were also in attendance. It's comforting as a pastor to go on vacation and know that three pastors are covering the front lines! Upon our return from Scandinavia, we joined other local churches on a Rhine River cruise organized by Rhema Cafe, which is a highlight of every fall. With Emma's family in town, KELC came in second place for the number of people on the boat.

This past Sunday, Reformation Sunday, was also Confirmation Sunday at KELC. I confirmed a young man at Trinity, Frankfurt, in May, but this was my first confirmation at KELC. After two years of instruction, I am confident in the confession of our young people. One confirmand in particular gives me so much hope for the work going on in this area. Greg is a young, single airman. He became disillusioned with his upbringing in the Methodist and Nazarene churches. By the providence of God, we met at Rhema Cafe and struck up a friendship. For the first time, Greg was able to hear the pure Gospel and have his questions and doubts

settled from the Word of God. One of my biggest desires from before coming here three years ago was to reach young, single airmen, so every success brings me great joy. Please pray for Greg's continued spiritual growth as he moves to Korea in January.

Otherwise, everything is running well at the prison and in the day-to-day operations of the congregation. Now we're looking forward to attending my brother's wedding in Houston, TX, at the beginning of November and then to Advent and Christmas.

Jesus be with you,

*Rev. Nathaniel Jensen*

The Jensen Family



Cecilia aka "Cc"



Baptism of Cecilia Monica Helena Jensen on Sep. 4



Ordination and installation of Frederic Stilmont in France.

Funeral of Dr. J.W. Montgomery in France.



“Trimming the wicks” at Altar Guild/Acolyte breakfast.



Our KELC men’s group meets once per month at a member’s home and once per month at the Ramstein Air Base food court/mall (the BX).



Confirmation at KELC, Reformation Sunday, 2024

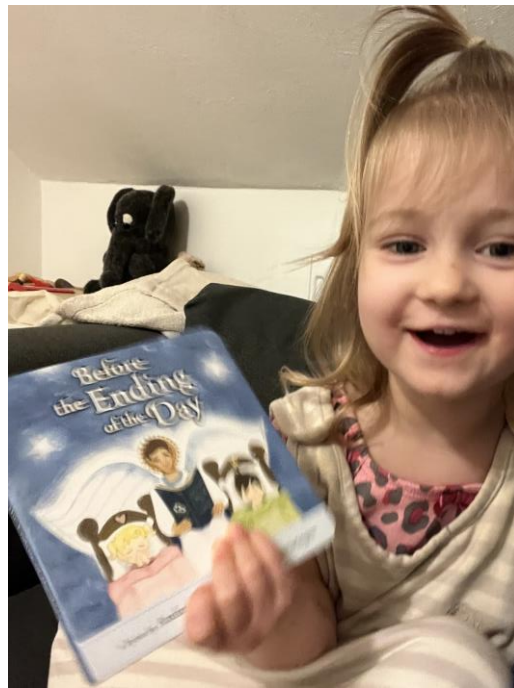




The Ledford Family visiting from South Africa.



The Jensen family at the church where the Jensen family came from near Aarhus, Denmark.



Agatha with a gift from a dear friend of ours and of our congregation, Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley (the Military Project).



To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Jensen, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Jensen-Germany Support." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/Jensen](https://lcms.org/Jensen).

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Mark checks: Nathaniel Jensen #A10798-69485