



Why Roosters?

Many of the churches in Rīga, and even throughout Europe and beyond, sport roosters, rather than (or sometimes in addition to) a cross on their spires. But why? Lindsay took a DEEP dive into this out of blatant curiosity to find out. It was difficult to find many reputable sources for the reasons, even looking to other European resources, but documented origins are pretty elusive. After combing through at least a dozen websites, it seems that roosters were placed atop church steeples to distinguish them from Roman Catholic churches after the Reformation. However, roosters have also been found in Roman catacombs and have been associated with Peter for millennia. It serves to remind us to repent of our sins (regarding Peter's denial of Christ), but the rooster also announces the dawn, pointing us to hope and the light of Christ – hence the Latin *Post Tenebrae Lux*: “After darkness, light.”

The rooster has been a symbol of Rīga, too, for quite a long time, possibly linked with the idea of hope during their many, many years of occupation and persecution.



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Program license obtained!



English stream faculty meet in Hamburg, Germany, for a faculty meeting. Clockwise from bottom left: Rev. Dr. David Preus, Rev. Dr. Christian Tiewes, Rev. Sam Bobby, Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff, and Rev. Jerry Lawson.

Dear friends in Christ,

For those of you who have been with us for a while and have been following the work at Lutera Akadēmija, you know that the accreditation process has been a lengthy journey. Our Latvian colleagues did the lion's share of the work in the accreditation process, and you may recall that the school was granted a six-year accreditation, which was the best accreditation that is awarded by the Latvian Education Ministry. While there was much rejoicing with that news, the work was not finished. Following accreditation, we had to get a program licensed.

The program that was decided upon was a professional program, which allows for greater flexibility with instructors and an emphasis on specifically training Lutheran church workers rather than having a lot of generalized academic courses. We LCMS missionaries were consulted by our Latvian colleagues in the creation of the professional standard, which was accepted. With that, Step 2 was complete.

The final step of this process, once the institution was accredited and a

professional standard had been accepted, was to develop a program that met the goals of the standard. The LCMS missionaries worked closely in the development of the program curriculum, specifically much of the curriculum that I helped to develop.

In December, the Academy hosted representatives from the licensure commission at the Latvian Ministry of Education, and they were very pleased by what they saw. We have been waiting eagerly for the official report of their findings, and I am pleased to share with you that our program has been licensed! This means that now we are able to offer fully-recognized bachelor's degrees to our students, which was the goal of our program from the beginning. While we have met this goal, this does not mean that the work is done. Rather, the work is just beginning! Thank you for walking along with us to this point as we continue to work serving and educating the next generation of faithful Confessional Lutheran pastors to serve God's people throughout Europe.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Cundiff



One of the golden rooster statues scattered throughout Rīga. This one, located near the Cundiff's home, is probably at least 10 feet tall.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our students, faculty, and administration as we have begun the spring semester.
- Our students in war-torn countries, especially those students who face the possibility of being drafted into their militaries.
- Good health and well-being for the family and friends of all missionaries.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The completion of licensure for the Bachelor of Theology program!
- Safe travels to and from the United States.
- YOU - our generous donors and prayer warriors, along with the steadfast workers of Mission Central and Mission Advancement, without whom this mission would be impossible.

A greener option?

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The January rundown



Carter, far left, during his basketball tournament.

January was full of classes, travel, and, unfortunately, illness.

Carter went back to school on January 8th (after Orthodox Christmas was over), Lindsay's nursing course began on January 13th, and the English stream of Luterā Akadēmija resumed courses on January 20th. The Academy now has 15 courses running for its three cohorts of students, in addition to one introductory course for prospective students in Europe. We have more than 20 students living in 16+ different countries across Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Carter had a basketball tournament with the three other international schools in

Rīga. Unfortunately, they were short on players, but that meant that Carter (and all the other kids) got lots of exhausting playing time over the 96 minutes total for the day! The team may not have won, but Carter's skills have improved immensely since last year!

Quintin had his Ph.D. residency courses scheduled in January, but Lindsay and Carter ended up going with him for about a week. Sadly, all three ended up with respiratory infections – likely influenza – so the trip wasn't incredibly enjoyable. Carter and Lindsay even had to delay their return to Rīga by a few days to avoid fevers during travel, but they made it back safely. All three are still struggling with cough but continue their recovery!

Be sure to follow our Facebook page, "The Cundiffs in Latvia," for even more photos and stories of the Lord's work in this beautiful country!

Carter's Corner

Sveiki (hello)! In the month of January, we again had some interesting adventures. First, I had a break from school, and I had fun doing things with my parents. Next, we went back to the States for a little bit for Dad's Ph.D. classes, and that was awesome! Unfortunately, we all got the flu, likely catching it from our international travel. I had to play catch-up at school for a little bit, and I am almost caught up as of writing this. Thank you all again for reading, and God bless!

- Carter (age 13)



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](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Quintin Cundiff and his family. Make checks payable to:

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P.O. Box 66861
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OR

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