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## Academy and church plant updates



### A very patriotic month

Latvians have an eventful November with *Lačpleša diena* (similar to Veteran's Day) on the 11<sup>th</sup> and *Latvijas Republikas proklamēšanas diena* (Independence Day) on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Because these big holidays are in the same month, all of Latvia is typically decked out in Latvian flags and the landscaping flowers, especially in Old Rīga, are changed out to deep reds and whites. Most people wear patriotic victory pins made of ribbon in the same pattern as their flag. Schools (including Carter's) hold Independence Day programs to sing Latvian songs and dance Latvian dances. Parades and torchlight processions fill many of the streets as people show their patriotism despite the crisp November air. Worldwide, many participate in simultaneously singing the national anthem at 21:00 (9:00 pm) Rīga time.

We are so blessed to live in this beautiful country. We encourage you to check out a great video of their simple but beautiful national anthem here: <https://youtu.be/Pnj1nVHpGB4?si=CNd1cv0S9ORDZq0T>



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*Quintin preaches at the English worship service at St. John in Old Riga.*

Dear friends in Christ,

This past month has been full of events and good things in all the various aspects of the work going on here in Latvia. For the Academy, I recently had a meeting with the bishop who is the vice-rector of the Academy to discuss how to better work together and to grow closer between the Latvian stream and the English stream. We have a plan to move forward. We have also heard that there will be a meeting next week about the licensure of the program, which is the last hurdle that we need to clear before things are up and running in a full capacity. I am preparing to once again teach our introductory class titled "Introduction to Theology" for prospective students. Please keep this important work in your prayers as we are seeing already God's blessings upon this endeavor.

For the English language church plant, we are starting to see things moving. We have been worshipping every Sunday together for the past two months, and that stability of worship has been important. We have gone from having sometimes 10 people in worship (which includes the missionary families) to upwards of 20 people each Sunday. What's more, we are seeing people return! For a while, we would mostly have tourists and people

who were passing through coming to the services. In our location, a certain amount of that is to be expected. However, to have English-speaking people who live here in Riga coming back is a huge thing. I also had the opportunity to provide some pastoral care to two young people who came to the service, and they have stayed in touch. One of them even brought a relative and a friend to church this past week.

That is one of the most important elements of mission: word of mouth. Having pastors out encouraging people to come to church is a good and right thing to do, but when people are inviting their own friends, family, and coworkers to come to church with them, the results are far better. My encouragement to you is to consider this during the Christmas season. There are many opportunities to invite someone to come to church with you. Invite them to come and celebrate with you and at the same time, fervently pray that your unchurched neighbors may hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ who came to be our savior. May our incarnate Lord grant you many joys this month!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Cundiff



Lindsay visited this hospital nestled in the forest where a Latvian friend convalesced for about a week. Notice how narrow the building is!

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Quintin's family as they mourn the loss of his great aunt Dorothy.
- Our students in war-torn countries, especially those students who could be drafted into their militaries.
- Our fourth-year students who are preparing to write their bachelor's theses.
- The administration, faculty, and students of Luterā Akadēmija as we approach the end of the semester.
- Good health and well-being for the family and friends of all missionaries.

#### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- 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?

If you would like to help us save on paper and postage by getting our newsletters in digital form, please email Lindsay at [Lindsay.Cundiff@lcmsintl.org](mailto:Lindsay.Cundiff@lcmsintl.org). We would be happy to make that quick and simple change for you. Thank you!

## November family updates



Thanksgiving celebration with (left to right) the Bobbys, the Lawsons, Sofija Ivēva, the Cundiffs, and the Graudiņi family. Missing are three of the children.

While Carter may feel that not much happened in November (see Carter's Corner), we did, indeed, do quite a bit.

Quintin traveled to Hamburg, Germany, for a few days with the rest of the faculty to discuss plans and strategy for Luterā Akadēmija. The Academy also had Reading Week, which is a "free" week common in European universities to allow students and faculty to catch up on assignments and grading. This is usually scheduled during the Thanksgiving holiday to allow the American instructors that time with their families.

Lindsay met a few different local friends (one Latvian and one Danish) for coffee and tea this month. She also accompanied a Latvian friend to the local emergency room and then to a specialty hospital to

which that friend was admitted. It is a bit jarring to see the differences between American and Latvian healthcare. One of those differences is the emphasis (or lack thereof) on patient education. It is not unusual in the Latvian system to get very little information about diagnoses and treatment from doctors and other healthcare personnel. This has actually been one of the focuses for Lindsay's nursing program coursework this semester.

Both Quintin and Lindsay are working on wrapping up the Academy's fall semester and preparing for the spring semester. They don't like leaving things for the last minute!

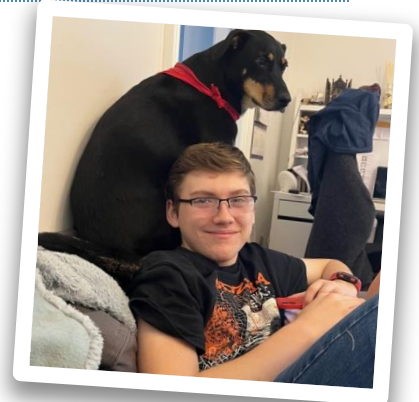
Carter had his annual international school's Independence Day program. All kids, from preschool to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, participate with (mostly) Latvian songs, dances, and poetry. Finally, he had student-led conferences at school; this means that he prepared for Quintin and Lindsay a PowerPoint presentation on what he has been working on in each of his classes. He is doing quite well and always earns high praise from his teachers.

**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)! It didn't really seem like much happened in November, but everything that did happen was good! First, I had a sleepover with my close friend from school, so we got to hang out and play video games together. It was also my Grandma Cundiff's birthday, and we made sure to call her. Dad made a small but special Thanksgiving meal to have at home, and I helped him with that. The next day, we had a big Thanksgiving with the other missionaries here, and that was a great experience. May God bless you, and thank you for reading this!

- 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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