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## Light to overcome the darkness



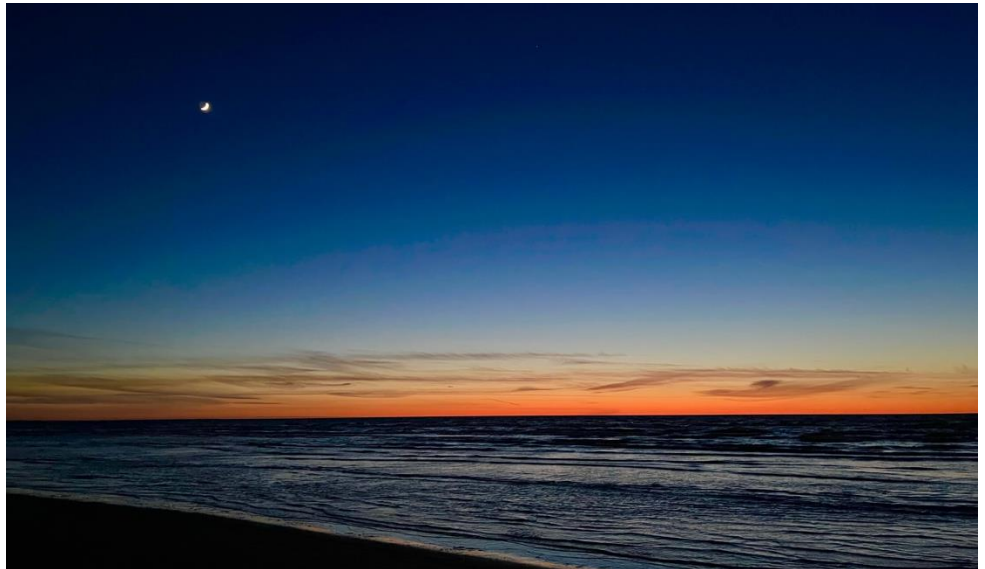
### More interesting facts

- One of the most popular souvenirs from Latvia is "Black Balsam of Riga," an alcoholic herb drink from a recipe created in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.
- In 1922, Latvia affirmed its own local cow breed called "Latvian Brown."
- A particular sort of candy produced only in Latvia is "Gotiņa" – a sticky, sweet bonbon mostly made of milk and sugar.
- Latvia is rich in clay deposits that building bricks and ceramics are made of.
- Before World War II, miniature cameras, VEF-*Minox*, were produced in Latvia – these cameras were especially preferred by spies of many countries.
- The biggest and oldest confection brand in Latvia is *Laima*, which was founded in 1925. The trademark production of *Laima* is mainly chocolate.
- One of the best Latvian export goods is the glazed curd snack *Kārums* (literally "A treat"), which is a particularly beloved product of Latvian people. The quality of this dainty snack has been awarded several gold medals in both local and international food exhibitions.

Source: Kalns, Guntis. *The Passport of Latvia*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Bārbala Simšone (trans). Rīga, Latvia: Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC, 2019.



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*The sunset over Jūrmala, Latvia, on the coast of the Baltic Sea.*

Dear friends in Christ,

It sure is getting dark earlier now, isn't it? How many of you have found yourselves saying this over the last few days? We here in Latvia did the "fall back" a week before the US did, so for a few days, our time difference was lessened by an hour, which was nice for contacts and conversations with friends and family in the States.

But as we slide into the darker part of the year, I find myself reflecting on the words of Isaiah 25:7-8: "And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken." The dark shroud of death covers so much of our world. Not only do we see many examples of death rampaging in our world, but there is the far more insidious darkness of spiritual death.

the answer for this darkness of death. Our Lord Jesus Christ swallowed up death at the cross and through his resurrection. In Christ, we have eternal life. And that life is ours now. This life then belongs to our Lord. And as his servants, we now rejoice at the opportunity to share the willingness of our master to receive all others as well! This is why we as Christians engage in mission: Death has been defeated, and we get to tell people about not just the victory but also the victor!

May God grant you the light of life and joy as we move into the end of the Church year and look with anticipation to our celebration of God swallowing up the shroud of death by sending his son to be incarnate among us for our salvation. May God bless the work of all missionaries throughout the world, and may He bless those who pray for and support those engaged in the work.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Cundiff

But instead of giving into despair, God reminds us that he has already given



Lindsay caught a bit of the aurora borealis, even in the middle of the city!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Those who struggle with the increasing darkness of the coming months.
- The administration, faculty, and students of Lutera Akadēmija .
- Good health and well-being for the family and friends of all missionaries.

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- Conquering the darkness through His Son, Christ Jesus.
- 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!

# Whew – what a month!



Our annual family photo after visa approval.

October has been a really busy month! Quintin had Ph.D. intensives in Fort Wayne for two weeks and has also been working on planning a conference in Norway in March.

Carter had his week-long Fall Break and got to hang out with his South Korean friend, Peter. He also had a field trip to one of Rīga’s river islands (Ķīpsala). There is a memorial and museum to a man named Žanis Lipke, who rescued and sheltered Jews from the Rīga Ghetto during World War II in a secret bunker. Carter’s class then had a discussion on when to trust authorities and follow the rules made by those authorities. Very important to contemplate in today’s world!

Lindsay has been working hard in her Research Methods nursing course and is

doing well so far. She also had a side project of proofreading a 250-page autobiography, so that was exciting!

The Cundiffs also jumped the annual hurdle of visa renewal, assisted by the lovely Māra Jensone, the Archbishop’s administrative assistant. We always love spending time chatting with her while waiting in line at the Immigration Office. Part of the process is not unlike waiting at the DMV, so it’s good to have a friend to catch up with while you do so!

Finally, all three of us spent this past Saturday at the movie theater. If you know the Cundiffs at all, you know they love sci-fi! It is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Matrix movie, so the theater did a triple-feature of all three Matrix movies in one afternoon and evening. It was a LONG day, but it was so fun to see them together in the theater! Afterward, we stopped and talked to two Latvian strangers about world events and how they relate to the movies – we even got to share the gospel with them!

**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)! With the Lord’s help, we were finally able to begin weekly English services at St. John’s! We also had our fall break at school, and I got to do some cool things with my dad and hang out with a friend. If you have been reading my articles for a while, you might remember a club I’m in called World Scholars; there is a possibility of a trip to Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates). I’m not sure yet if I’m going to go, but I’ll have to make a decision on that soon. Anyway, on Halloween, I got to watch some movies with Dad, and it was really cool. Thank you all for reading, and may God bless you!

- 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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