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Rev. Joseph and Deaconess
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Did you know?

- *Pfingstmontag*, or *Whit Monday* is celebrated the day after Pentecost Sunday. The day is celebrated through special spring festivals and church services, although for most Germans it's just a day off work.
- Sixty days after Easter (ten days after Pentecost) *Corpus Christi* Day is celebrated, primarily by Catholics. It is celebrated 10 days after Pentecost and means "Body of Christ."
- The average temperature in Kaiserslautern for June is 72 degrees Fahrenheit. We average 9 days of rain in June.
- One-third of Germany is still covered in forests and woodlands.



Confirmation 2020

May 31 was a great day for us at Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church. After eleven weeks of worshipping online, we were finally able to bring back a small number (30) of our members for worship in the sanctuary. Even better than that, it was a special occasion in the lives of six of our young people – their Confirmation Day!

On this Pentecost Sunday, we joyously listened as these young people confessed their faith in the Triune God and promised to remain steadfast in their confession until death. Whether watching at home or sitting in a pew, the members of KELC rejoiced "with thankful hearts that (our confirmands) have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. (They) have confessed the faith and been absolved of (their) sins" (Lutheran Service Book p. 273).

In his sermon, Joe connected the two events (Pentecost and Confirmation), pointing to the work of the Holy

Spirit in believers' lives, as he pointed out, "...I can assure you that the Holy Spirit is active right now in every Christian believer's heart, and the Third Person of the Trinity is doing His powerful operation in the lives of these young people before us, and the rest of us also."

He continued, "...right now, God's Word about salvation through faith in Jesus is being announced. And this Gospel- Good News- is doing what it always does, drawing hearts to the Savior for life and peace through Him. And in God's Word and also today, the Triune God is enlarging His Church so that all believers may worship the living God in Spirit and in truth."

We rejoice that God does, indeed, enlarge His church through the proclamation of the Word. We rejoice that we can be a part of this work, and that you are sharing this work with us. *Sola Deo Gloria!*



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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *That God continues to protect and sustain all LCMS missionaries from COVID-19.*
- *That people turn to the Word of God for comfort and strength during the pandemic fatigue.*
- *Our three adult catechumens, that they would be able to focus on their studies.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Joe's successful eye surgery and swift recovery. He now has 20/20 vision in his right eye!*
- *Germany is opening up again and is managing COVID-19 well. We are worshiping again in our sanctuary.*
- *Eleven years of marriage as we celebrate our anniversary on July 4.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us.*

A German Hospital

It doesn't seem possible that it's already been three weeks since Joe's eye surgery! Since we were nervous about having a procedure done here, we thought we'd share with you a little about our experience.

First, we did a "dry run" to the hospital two days before the surgery. The hospital looked like any older hospital in the United States. With Jennie's limited German, we found the right floor and unit where the surgery would take place. We then left and asked (again in German) an attendant how to find the parking garage. Since Joe was to be blindfolded after the surgery, we wanted to see how we would get from the hospital to our car.

On Friday morning, we arrived ½ hour early for our appointment. Checking in at the desk, the woman gave us a confused look. We immediately thought it was just the language barrier but soon discovered that something was wrong. We were supposed to have come in the day before for a COVID-19 test, but nothing was mentioned in the doctor's paperwork about that. So, the surgery was moved to Monday, and we were given an appointment for a Sunday COVID-19 test.

On Monday, we again arrived early for our appointment. Then we waited. And waited. And waited. One hour passed. Then a second hour. We watched as they called people in and as others came out with a patch over their eye. Finally, "Herr Asher" was called, and Joe disappeared. Jennie continued to wait in the waiting room, where seats were taped off to keep the proper (1 ½ meters) spacing between visitors.

The surgical procedure was successful (they replaced the lens in the right eye). It was painless, albeit with local anesthesia. All Joe saw was red, blue, and green lights. He felt like he was on a German assembly line, wheeled in (another patient was in another wheeled bed next to him) and the doctor went back and forth with a staff well-prepared to do the work. It was like the Nutcracker with ballet moves on stage.

Then he was bandaged, but only on one eye. "Blindfold" was an error in our translation!

We went to the doctor's office on Tuesday. The bandage was removed. Joe's eye was checked and the cloudiness in the right eye was completely gone. He scored 100% on his 20/20 vision test for that eye!

Since then, we have been following the doctor's protocol with eye drops every two hours the first week, tapering to twice a day now. Joe believes that Jennie should have been an army sergeant as she sticks to the regimen!

We thank you for your prayers on our behalf and rejoice in God's gift of medicine.



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."

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

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