

March 20, 2019

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Friends,

We are blessed to be able to once again be partnering with **East European Missions Network**(eemn.org) in their 2019 English Language Bible Camp. EEMN has been taking groups there for the past fifteen years doing something incredible: *teaching conversational English in Latvian public schools with the Bible as the textbook!*

With generations of church leaders impacted by Soviet-style top down control and systemic abuse, there is still much work to be done in helping the Church recover.

Our trip last year allowed us to continue to deepen and strengthen relationships in many parts of the community. One student, Anna, was a student in Mark's class on his first trip to Latvia many years ago. Last summer, Anna served as a translator for our team. Anna wrote us a very touching thank you at the end of camp last year. Here is just a piece of what she wrote:

I wanted to say how much it means for us to have you here in Latvia. It not only shows that language and culture doesn't divide people, but it also shows what an amazing plan God has for each and one of us. Having you here and working together proves that God's love has no limits – how else could people explain you coming so far to give us so much.

The time and money and strength that you put in these missionary camps are way more than we could ever deserve. I appreciate you all so so so much, because of what you have done and hopefully will continue doing – bringing people to Christ. It is truly amazing to see how children change during the week they spend in this camp. I saw many great changes in both of my groups – the shy ones opened up, the look-at-me-I'm-so-random ones looked like they matured in a week and became more calm and patient. In this camp children learn to share with one another – not only the things that they have but also their opinions, positive energy and memories.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

-Hebrews 12:1-2

Mark and Julia are team leaders. Katharine and Erik will be working with students one on one and in groups. This summer there will be a teen week for students like Anna and a week of our traditional English Language Bible campserving the students of Striki School near Saldus, Latvia. This is a great opportunity for us to touch lives in a country devastated by generations of Communism.

EEMN's mission is "changing a culture by changing lives one at a time"

Our training is underway now, and we are all excited to be able to share in this experience together as we grow as a family in our walk with Christ. ***The trip is June 19 -July 7.***

We are reaching out to our friends and family to ask for your partnership.

First, we need prayer support. EEMN stresses how important it is to go to serve as a short-term missionary with many people praying for us, as well as the people we will be meeting. We know we can't do this alone, ***so we ask that you write or e-mail us*** and let us know that you'll be praying. Before we leave, we will send you more details of our trip and our prayer needs.

Secondly, we also ask for you to consider helping with the expenses of the trip, which is about \$10,000 for all of us. You'll be investing in changed lives: the people at camp, and ours as well. All gifts to EEMN are tax deductible if you follow the simple instructions on the enclosed form, and send it along with any contribution you may decide to make. ***Another option is to donate online*** at <http://www.eemn.org/support/>. The Wilhelm family is an option on the drop down menu of specific funding needs for EEMN (STM LC Fund - Wilhelm).

Any prayer support and/or financial help you can give will be greatly appreciated. There will be a blog about our trip on the EEMN website and we will also be sending emails to you about our time in Saldus, Latvia as we are able.

God bless you,

Mark and Julia Wilhelm
Katharine & Erik

If you decide to support us financially and prefer to send a check instead of using the online giving option mentioned above, make any checks out to:
East European Missions Network,
8210 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Memo: Wilhelm Family

