



Some of the flowers at my Prague flat.

SPRING IN BLOOM

Prague was in full bloom this month. Even though the city and country were still shut down, I could leave my flat for walks. I truly enjoy God's creation around me.

Most people in my neighborhood have a variety of beautiful flowers in their yards and lovely fruit trees—cherry, apple, plum and apricot—with flowery blossoms. The nearby forest came to life with budding trees and grass turned green.

Back in my flat, I have enjoyed reading the lovely Easter cards and letters from so many of you. I keep them and read them several times. Thank you so much for thinking of me and celebrating Easter with me from your homes. I especially appreciate the congregations that sent community greetings that warmed my heart.

If you would like to send a card or letter, my address is:

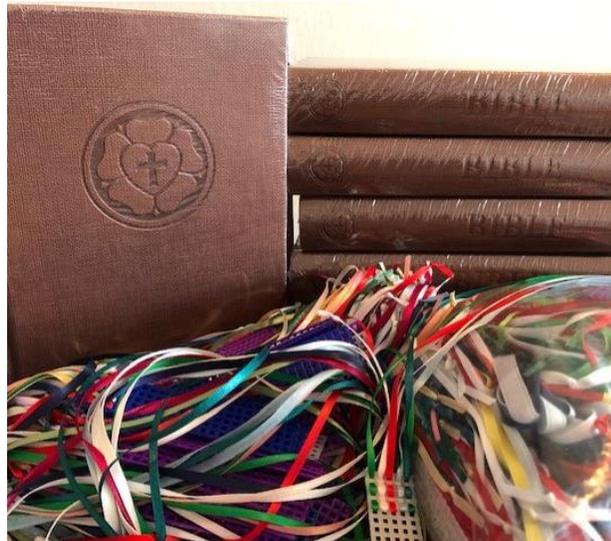
Nad Želivkou 475
Prague 6 – Nebušice
164 00 Czech Republic



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Cynthia.Wrucke@lcms.org

Unexpected Blessings



New Czech Bibles and bookmarks.

In late March, I found out that I was ineligible to receive a Covid vaccine in the Czech Republic because I have private health insurance and not Czech government health insurance. Coincidentally, I received an email from my doctor's office in Wisconsin that my vaccine eligibility included the choice of vaccine type and appointment times.

Since I already had a full workload with classes and meetings scheduled throughout April, I was able to work remotely from Wisconsin just as easily as I could from my flat in Prague during the lockdown. Within 48 hours of landing in America, I received my first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, and I returned to the field a few days after I got the second dose three weeks later.

New Czech Bibles

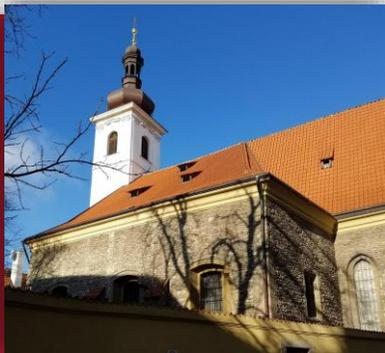
This unexpected trip turned out to be filled with more blessings beyond getting vaccinated. A small group of faithful mission supporters invited me to their LWML meeting to share information about the Czech Bibles that I put in the community free library in Prague. When I told them I needed more Bibles to distribute, they unanimously voted to donate funds from the group.

What I didn't expect was that individual women spoke up that they personally wanted to contribute. They also volunteered to make as many Bible bookmarks as they could before I returned to Prague. These women went above and beyond anything I could have imagined and provided resources for about 200 Czech Bibles.

Easter celebrations

This Easter was even more special as I was able to attend church each day of Holy Week and Easter Sunday at live services with singing. What a joy to gather around the altar for Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday with new confirmands there for the first time. Easter Sunday Divine Service filled me with joy as we all celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It reminded me how precious this Good News is and why it needs to be shared with everyone. In the afternoon, I was able to spend time with my children and their families, all together for the first time since my grandson was born. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

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Blessings - continued



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Continued proficiency in my Czech studies with my new teacher.
- Continued good health and safety as I distribute Bibles within the city.
- A productive congregational meeting on May 23 as we discuss calling a new Czech pastor.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- My Covid vaccination.
- Our risen Lord and Savior who died for all, even if they don't yet know Him.
- The LWML ladies who generously provided Czech Bibles and bookmarks.
- Your prayers, letters of encouragement, Easter greetings and daily support of the Czech mission.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The beauty of His creation.

Blessings back in Prague

I don't have room to list all of the blessings received during my visit to get vaccinated, but many of those blessings returned to Prague with me—Bible bookmarks, funds to expand Czech Bible distribution, extra protection against Covid, and a few extra pounds from Panera's generous "free-bagel-a-day" they offered me.

The Czech Republic was still under lockdown when I returned to Prague, vaccine supplies were still limited and I was welcomed by dozens of Easter greetings from you, my faithful supporters and prayer warriors.

I continue to be amazed at God's provisions in providing Bibles to reach the Czechs with His Word. Our Czech deacon, Martin Damašek found several other "knižovna budka" (library booth) sites in Prague near our church, and I am now working to expand the Bible distribution to these locations.

Thank you for walking with me on this mission journey as co-workers for Christ!

New English class begins

Another blessing during this time was the start of a new Conversational English class. Since this is done online, I invited church workers from throughout the Eurasia region who needed help with their English. We now have students from the Czech Republic, Latvia, Pakistan and Spain. Our American volunteer tutors live across America from Virginia to California.

Praise God that technology and courageous faith make it possible for Lutherans to connect weekly across six different time zones. We meet at 6:30 pm Prague time, which is 9:30pm in Pakistan and 9:30am in San Diego. Our students thank us each and every week for these classes.

This month we remember to share God's Word:

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke



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 Cindy Zirbel Wrucke, you may send a tax-deductible gift and make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mark checks "Wrucke-Czech Republic Support."

Or, you can make checks payable and send to:

Mission Central
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Gifts can also be given securely online through my online giving page at lcms.org/wrucke or at <https://missioncentral.us/wrucke/>