



Mosaic at a metro station in Prague.

## METRO ART

As I travel throughout the city of Prague on public transportation, I am amazed at the artwork. I frequently see sculptures and statues inside the metro stations and along the tram and bus routes. Many of the public parks have multiple monuments and sculptures.

The photo above shows only a small portion of a huge mosaic that is in the underground metro station at Karlovo Náměstí, not far from my church.

Ironically, the metro station nearest my home in Prague, Bořislavka, is newer and doesn't have any art. It houses the usual meat market, bakery, wine shop, pizza place and ATM that you also see at many other metro stations. It has a public bathroom that costs 10 Kč or about 50 cents, also typical to find in Prague metro stations.

If you would like to send mail to me in Prague, my address is:

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## New Czech Pastors



**Martin and Dominik stand at the Baptismal font in St. Michael's church, Prague.**

Many Lutherans do not remember their Baptism Day firsthand because they likely were infants. But for Martin Damašek and Dominik Žbanek, the day is quite memorable, since they came to faith and were baptized as adults. They both currently serve as Czech deacons in the Lutheran church in Prague, and recently passed their exams to become Lutheran pastors. They will be ordained Oct. 3, 2021, along with a new Slovak pastor.

I work with both Martin and Dominik in the Evangelická Církev Augsburgského Vyznání v České Republice (ECAVvČR) in Prague. Though they both grew up in atheist families, their journeys to become pastors are quite different.

Martin first went to church when he was a foreign exchange student in high school, placed with a Lutheran family in Illinois. He was baptized on Dec. 17, 1998, at Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS), Centralia, Illinois. He went to college, then worked as a schoolteacher and politician. He still serves as a city councilman for the Prague 5 district. He joined St. Michael's church in Prague, became a deacon in 2019 and began his pastoral studies immediately. Because

he is fluent in English, Martin has attended symposiums at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, as well as theological conferences throughout Eurasia.

Dominik was baptized at the age of 33. He said, "I found my way to God only in adulthood. It happened during a period of hardship in my life. It wasn't until much later that I began to understand how the Triune God communicated with me. I knew that He had worked with me even at a time when I did not want or need to know Him. But these moments led me to repentance."

Dominik became a deacon at St. Michael in 2010. He later became interested in studying to become a pastor. When he looks to the future and where he might be called to serve, he says, "It is a great adventure for me to wait with joy on what God has prepared and has not yet revealed to me."

Both Martin and Dominik are thankful for your prayers while they studied and took their pastoral exams. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they prepare for ordination and calls to Czech congregations.



# My first Czech congregation meeting



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The Czechs who receive Bibles in the community libraries in Prague.
- Eurasia missionaries in their respective countries and roles.
- Our church leaders, that they would serve joyfully and faithfully.

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Our Czech deacons, Martin and Dominik, on passing their pastoral exams.
- The easing of Covid restrictions that will take effect in June.
- The abundance of rain this spring, which has helped nourish gardens and forests.

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The gift of the Holy Spirit.

### *Czech congregation met May 23*

The Czech congregation of the ECAVvČR held their annual voter’s meeting for the first time since 2019, due to Covid. Attendees had to wear masks and observe social distancing in the church since government regulations were still in effect.

The meeting reminded me of American church meetings in many ways. We received the agenda and various leader reports via email a few weeks before the meeting; we could email our opinions about any of the topics to the head of the congregation and the church administrator ahead of time. When we arrived at the meeting, we had to sign in next to our names on a membership roster. Out of 99 official members, only 11 attended this year.

Church leaders presented reports, members discussed and voted on the agenda items, and projected budgets were discussed. One of the key differences between the church here and in America is that the Czech government pays restitution to the churches for the confiscation of their property under communism. The payments are based on the number of church members and will continue for a few more years. After that, the church will need to find ways to cover any shortfall.

The final discussion centered around calling a parish pastor. We have been without a permanent pastor since August 2019. After much discussion, it was decided to wait until after the ordination of the new pastors this fall to consider calling one of them.

*This month we remember those who serve God:*

**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

**Ephesians 2:10 (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](https://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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