



GOOD NEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe

November/December 2016

THANKSGIVING AND ADVENT

The Thanksgiving holiday is past. The end of the Church Year has gone. Now we enter the season of advent. This term simply means "the Coming". We use the Sundays of Advent to prepare ourselves for the two great comings of our Savior. First there was the coming as the Child of Bethlehem. We have set aside a date, December 25th, to celebrate this very important and earth shaking event. The Son of God left His throne in heaven to become human. He did so for the express purpose of redeeming a lost and condemned world. It meant a life of perfect obedience to His heavenly Father's Law, so that He could offer Himself without spot or blemish as the Sacrifice that would cover the sins of all people.

We spend this month thinking about His first coming and the freedom from sin, death, and the devil it brings to us. In our Christ-won freedom, we humbly thank Him and keep His life on earth alive and praised. He provided the gift of eternal life. This is not just ours; it belongs to all people. So we also make sure that as many as possible hear this Good News and join us in singing the praises of the Savior.

And we have added incentive to do so. For we also are anticipating the second coming of the Savior. We have no idea when this will happen, but when it does, we know that this sinful, corrupt world will end and the Lord will take us to be with Himself in heaven.

This gives us a double reason for rejoicing. We get to celebrate the birth of the Savior, and we will get to go with Him into heaven to an eternal celebration in the presence of the Father. Don't let the stress of the holidays cause you to forget these two comings. May the peace Christ won for you fill you with a greater joy that is able to handle all that the devil can throw at you. Have a blessed Christmas.

December Worship Schedule

Northwood, England -

contact Pastor Bruss for location details

December 4

Worship at 13:00 followed by Bible study and fellowship.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -

contact Pastor Bruss for location details

December 11

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship, Bible study, and Sunday school.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -

at the Southside Chapel

December 11

Worship is at 16:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday school, and fellowship.

Munich -

contact Pastor Bruss for location details

December 15

Worship is at 18:30

Vilseck, Germany -

contact Pastor Bruss for location details

December 17

Worship is at 10:30

Zurich, Switzerland area -

contact Pastor Bruss for location details

December 17

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship and Bible study.

Spieshiem, Germany -

contact Pastor Bruss for location details

December 24

Christmas service and Communion

Offerings

Local offerings for the period were €3,280.97. Thank you for your offerings. It is used to bring God's Word to Europe. God bless the generous and humble gifts of his people.

THE LORD IS GRACIOUS

The time of waiting is almost over. The Call has been accepted, and Pastor and Mrs. Don Stuppy will be arriving in January. In the meantime, you're stuck with the novice, Pastor Wes Bruss, who continues to bungle through this brand new form of ministry. It has been quite the learning curve over here. Yet, it is a very exciting ministry. I am truly humbled to be counted worthy to serve our Lord and His people here in Germany.

I am also impressed with the way you make the effort to hear the Word and receive the Lord's Supper so far away from your home congregations. The joy in singing the hymns, the willingness to set up and take down for each service, and the sincere appreciation for the worship and fellowship have made me realize again what a

tremendous blessing our Lord has given us in our fellowship of believers and the importance of sound doctrine in our midst. You are the embodiment of how Luke described the early Christian church in the book of Acts: *"They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* (Acts 2:42). And what is more, the Lord has made me a part of this wonderful ministry.

So I have some very special reasons for thanksgiving this year. I retired from the fulltime ministry last July after 45 years. But the Lord wasn't through with me, because He gave me another fulltime, if only temporary, Call to serve in this exciting ministry. I truly have to thank Him for His grace and mercy to me in Christ Jesus. And your support and encouragement is like cream on top. So I thank the Lord not only for His grace and mercy, but also for your faith which is a great incentive to me.

What an awesome God we have to watch over us and to provide what we need for our time on earth until we go to live with Him in heaven! He keeps us in the faith of His Son, who came to earth in fulfillment of the Old Testament promises, as Scriptures say, *"when the time had fully come."* In a few weeks we celebrate that special birth in Bethlehem as the greatest of all gifts the father could give us. We do so far away from our home congregations. But we have the same joy, the same comfort, and the same message we would have heard back in those congregations.

Please join me in amazement at how the Lord deals so graciously with His people. That can only lead to praise and thanksgiving, to repentance and relief, to joy and eager service. On a personal note, I ask your continued prayers, for me and for your new shepherd, Pastor Stuppy, that the Lord continues to bless us with eagerness and energy to serve in this wonderful ministry.

CONTACT US

If you have need of pastoral assistance or just want to talk, please make contact. Your e-mails, phone calls, and letters are welcomed. The contact information does not change.

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