

GOODNEWS LETTER

WELS Europe

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:9-14

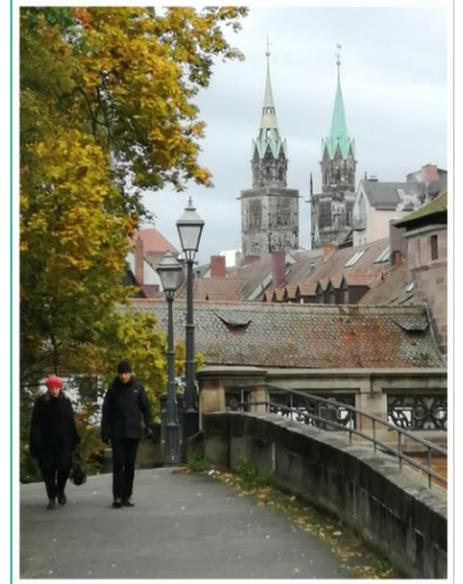
The world celebrates Christmas in many different ways. This year we were hoping to enjoy the experience of a German Christmas. We wanted to visit the enchanting Christmas markets. We were hoping to host our children and grandchildren in our new Spiesheim home. We planned to shower them with German presents and delight them with German treats.

Sadly, that is not going to happen...

Dear friends, you also probably had special plans for Christmas. Holiday parties, visiting family, family visiting you, big dinners, exchanging gifts, and enjoying Christmas markets were likely on your minds. Sadly, much of that will not happen either. This will be a disappointing Christmas season for many people around the world because of this awful pandemic.

Yes, our celebrations may be dampened this year, but the joy in our hearts remains. We know the love that God has for us. His Son became one of us. We know that Jesus is our Savior. And we know that we have the best Christmas present of all—eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Maybe we can celebrate like Mary, treasuring and pondering the



December Worship

December 6

London Zoom 10:00 UTC
Meeting ID 407 396 2487

December 10

Munich 19:00

December 12

Vilseck 11:00

December 13

Switzerland 15:00

December 20

Wicker 11:00
Ramstein 16:00

Please contact Pastor Hartwig for specific locations of and directions to our worship services.

peaceful joy of Christmas in our hearts.

Maybe we can celebrate like the shepherds glorifying and praising God for all true joys of Christmas.

Whatever we do this year to honor our Savior's birth, we can have a Merry Christmas!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!



Our Offerings

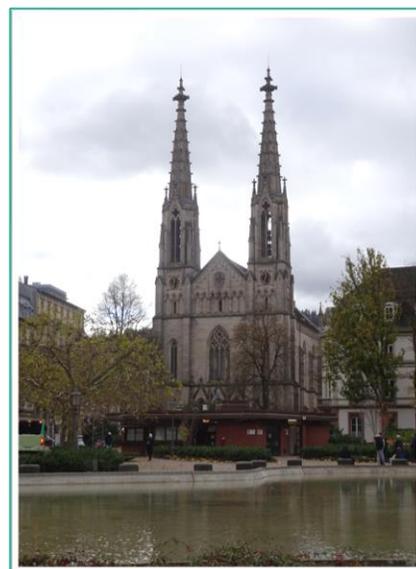
November

€3,174.41 were received as direct deposits. €110.00, CHF 140.00, and US\$40.00 were received in the basket offerings.

Direct Deposit Information

Please consider direct deposit of your offerings to WELS Europe. And note the new banking details.

Designate: John Paul Hartwig
IBAN:
DE21 5519 0000 0106 6260 13
BIC MVBMD5



Other News

Special thanks. For over ten years, the OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) has given offerings in order to maintain the chaplaincy in Europe. This year, because of the pandemic, OWLS did not hold its annual convention. Still, they surpassed their goal of \$50,000 by \$2,000 and have given an offering to our ministry of \$52,000. We thank God for this blessing and for the many people in the States who support our gospel proclamation in Europe.

Looking Ahead

The Sangerhalle in Spiesheim is closed to all activities for the rest of 2020. Therefore we will not have our joint Christmas service on December 20 in Spiesheim, but we will have regular morning and afternoon services at Wicker (11:00) and Ramstein (14:00).

January Worship

3/1/2021: London via Zoom
10/1/2021: Wicker & Ramstein
14/1/2021: Munich
16/1/2021: Vilseck
17/1/2021: Switzerland
24/1/2021: Wicker & Ramstein

January brings us back to our regular worship schedule.

An Easter retreat is scheduled for April 1-4 in Augsburg, where the 2020 Reformation retreat had been scheduled. There will also be a retreat from April 30-May 2 at Bath in England.

The next Zoom meeting with the London group is scheduled for December 6, 10:00GMT. I'm looking forward to meeting with you all again.

Help Us Reach Many More

WELS Military Services uses referrals to maintain contact and offer spiritual resources to the men and women who are serving their country. It's estimated that more than 1,500 WELS members are in the U.S. military, at U.S. installations and overseas, though only about 20 percent of them are referred for ministry at this crucial time in life.

You can find more information on this at

<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/>.

If you know of any WELS people in Europe please let Pastor Hartwig know. They don't need to be in the military. Students, people working jobs here, retirees, all are welcome.



Online worship and devotional resources.

- WELS military devotions: <https://wels.net/dev-military/>
- General daily devotions from WELS: <https://wels.net/dev-daily/>
- Seminary chapel: <https://www.wisluthsem.org/wls-chapel/>

Many congregations have gone on-line with worship because of the Corona virus and some continue their on-line programming even after face-to-face worship has resumed. Here are a few:

- Christ Alone in Thiensville, WI <https://vimeo.com/user74314848>
<https://www.christalnewels.org/> has links to sermon podcasts and other video devotions.
- Our Redeemer in Madison, WI <https://www.orlmadison.org/sermons/>
- Grace in Milwaukee, WI
<https://www.youtube.com/c/gracedowntownorg/videos>
- Faith Lutheran, Tallahassee: Bible study and worship services on their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOZg5cxpvHojC-5mHT7ZFzA>
- Grace in Tucson, AZ has online worship and Bible study:
<https://www.gracelutheransaz.org/>
- Pastor Paul Horn, chairman of the Military Services Committee, has links to worship and Bible study on: <https://lambogodlafayette.com/>

WELS European Chaplaincy

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Key to the photos. Did you get them all?

Nürnberg Altstadt, Zürich Limmattal, Zürich Limmattal, Evangelische Stadtkirche Baden-Baden, Englischer Garten München, Marc Chagall windows in the Zürich Fraumünster



Comforter Ministry

Susanne Hanson, mother of Reid Hanson (Ramstein), oversees a quilt ministry of Christian love for women who have been diagnosed with cancer. Please contact her if you know of someone in that situation. Go to the web site:

www.comforterministry.com

