

GOODNEWS LETTER

WELS European Chaplaincy

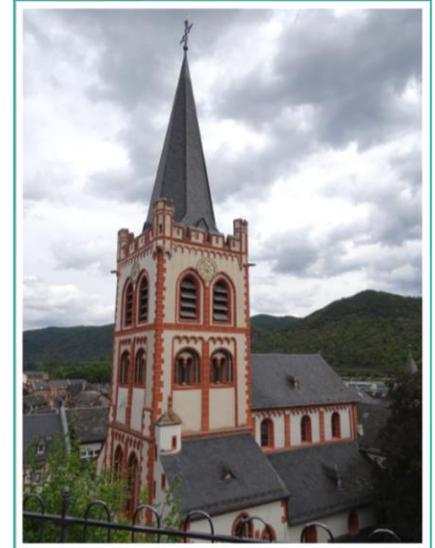
This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

On this day in Spiesheim, the day that the Lord has given us is truly one to rejoice in. The sky is blue, the sun is shining between puffy clouds and a cool breeze is welcome after some very hot days. This day also marks the first newsletter from your new chaplain in Europe. My wife and I have been here for two months already! We are very thankful that the Stuppys were here to make our transition fairly easy. I say fairly only because the paperwork we need to conquer consumes too much of our time and everything seems to take longer in our coronavirus world. However, because of the Stuppys we have met some very kind neighbors and were introduced to the area and the places we need to go to help us with daily life in Germany.

Our weekend life centers around the people we are here to serve. So far, we have been able to continue having services in the places that have recently opened up. We've been to Ramstein and Wicker as well as Munich and Vilseck. Because of travel restrictions and lack of certain documents, we are still not able to serve in London or Switzerland. Still we rejoice that services are being held again and pray that the Lord would soon open up the other locations for us.

Meet the Hartwigs

After graduation from the seminary in 1983, John was assigned as a missionary to the Lutheran Church of Central Africa in Malawi. After ten years of service there, he accepted a call as missionary in Thailand.



September Worship

September 13

Wicker 11:00

Ramstein 16:00

September 17

Munich 18:30, Place TBA

September 19

Vilseck 11:00

September 20

Switzerland 11:00, Place TBA

September 27

Wicker 11:00

Ramstein 16:00

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

For the past twenty-five years John was library director at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary where he also taught preaching. Helen taught grade school at various primary levels over the years at Calvary Lutheran School in Thiensville before her retirement in 2014. John and Helen were planning on retiring to Madison, WI in June until the Lord provided this exciting new opportunity for service. John and Helen arrived in Germany on 23 June from Wisconsin and live in a rented home in Spiesheim, a village in the wine country south of Mainz.

Hartwigs have three children. Joe and his wife Becca, with Vera (4) and Annie (2), live in Kansas City, MO. Evan and his wife Blair, with Maddie (almost 1), live in Omaha, NE. And Maria lives in Madison, WI.

More News

The **Stuppys** returned to the US in July. They arrived safely and without any traveling difficulties. They did have to quarantine for two weeks, but they were blessed to spend most of that time with family. They are now settled in at Michigan Lutheran High School where they will serve for one year as dorm supervisors. We wish them and their students a blessed and healthy year ahead.

New members at Ramstein! Ben and Christine Kremer were blessed with a son, Brodie on June 25. And Ezekiel Waldschmidt, son of Mark and Tana and brother to Brooklyn, was born on August 17. We thank God for the safe and healthy arrivals and pray for his continued blessings as they grow in God's grace.

We welcome two new families to the Ramstin group. Denise and Mark Lahey and their son Alan travel over an hour from Spangdahlem to attend worship. Katie and Chad Cisewski and their daughters Brynn and Lily recently moved from Garmisch to Ramstein. May the Lord grant them and all of our members safe travels to and from worship.

We have decided to **cancel the planned retreat in Augsburg** (November 6-8). With the recent surge of infections in Germany the hostel is uncertain about what they will be able to offer. Planning becomes nearly impossible. Keep praying that we will be able to have an Easter retreat.

We would like to plan a **special Christmas season worship service** in Spiesheim with a meal at our home afterwards. It would seem that Sunday, December 13 at 13:00 makes the most sense, given the December worship schedule. We would not worship at Wicker and Ramstein that day. A service of lessons and carols for Advent and Christmas would be appropriate. How can we do that without musicians, you ask? I believe I can put together an edifying service using recorded carols (not the computer generated HymnSoft music)



Offerings

July

€370 were received as direct deposits and €120 in the basket offering.

August

€1713.44 were received as direct deposits. €100 and \$35 were received in basket offerings.

We thank God for the generosity of his people in supporting this ministry.

Direct Deposit Information

Please consider direct deposit of your offerings to the WELS European Chaplaincy.

Designate: WELS European Chaplaincy
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that we could sing along to. (And I will test it out many times before the event to make sure everything works! Sorry about that, Ramstein folks. 😊) If you have feedback regarding date or format or location, please let me know.

Worship and devotional resources. There are many on-line resources available for you to hear God's Word and feed your faith. Here is a select listing:

- WELS devotions geared specifically toward the military may be read or listened to: <https://wels.net/dev-military/>
- General daily devotions from WELS: <https://wels.net/dev-daily/>
- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary streams its daily chapel each day school is in session. These 15-20 minute worship services led by students and faculty are found at <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 has a vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/user74314848> where you will find the current service, produced specially for on-line worship, as well as their archived services. The congregation's website at <https://www.christalnewels.org/> has links to sermon podcasts and other video devotions.
- Our Redeemer in Madison, WI posts video sermons every week. Links can be found at <https://www.orlmadison.org/sermons/>
- Grace in Milwaukee, WI maintains a YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/gracedowntownorg/videos> where they post the entire Sunday worship service as well as devotions during the week.

WELS European Chaplaincy

Pastor John Hartwig

Im Holzweg 4a

55288 Spiesheim

Home: 06732-600-3933 Cell: 0173-419-9572

welschaplain@gmail.com

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

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/serve-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/>

London Worship

We hope to worship again in the London area as soon as the UK quarantine restrictions are lifted.

If any of our London congregants has information on that, please let Pastor Hartwig know.