

News from the Rajek Family

February 2022

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“To The Ends of The Earth”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



This picture was taken from my airplane window when Jenny and I visited Latvia in October 2021. With its headquarters in Rīga, Air Baltic is the official airline of Latvia.

Welcome and Update

Greetings in the name of Christ! Thank you for your continued support in this mission to make Christ known “to the ends of the earth.”

It was my hope to be writing to you from our new home in Rīga,



The Rajek family at “Christmas at the Capitol” (Pierre, SD - December 2020).

Latvia. Unfortunately, God had other plans as days before our departure, I tested positive for Covid. Soon after, Jenny and Emiley began having Covid symptoms too (Lexi had no symptoms but quarantined with us just to be safe). Praise God, our experience was relatively mild, and we were able to reschedule our flights for the end of January without incurring additional fees. God willing, by the time you read this newsletter, we will have arrived in Latvia.

Prayer Requests

- Continued prayers for Luther Academy's students and instructors as we begin a new term.
- For continued growth of Luther Academy.
- For an end to this pandemic.
- A prayer of thanksgiving for continued health for my family and me.
- Continued prayers for my family especially my kids as they begin a new school and life in a new place.

Christ Makes All Things New

I don't know how you feel, but for me, the year 2021 felt a lot like 2020 ... and that was not a good thing. Covid dominated the news reports (and continues to with the explosion of the Omicron variant). Wars and rumors of war in Ukraine, Taiwan, and Afghanistan. Inflation. The great resignation. With all the negative news at the beginning of 2022, it's not a strain to wonder if this New Year will be any different than the one past.



Unfortunately, it's not a stretch to say that things might get worse before they get better. But don't lose heart, my friend. God is in charge. And someday soon, the joy of the Apostle John in the book of Revelation will be a reality for all who are in Christ Jesus. Read it for yourself. But as you do, don't see yourself as a part of the current rotting culture. Rather, in Christ see yourself as you truly are, part of God's new creation!

The apostle John wrote,

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.' And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true'" (Revelation 21:1-5 ESV).

Did you catch that? Mourning shall be no more. Crying shall be no more. Pain shall be no more. The struggles of illness will be no more. Wars and rumors of wars will be no more. Struggles to make ends meet will be no more. The grief we all experience at the passing of a loved one will be no more. What a blessed promise. The Lord has done all that is necessary in Jesus Christ, so people of faith may enter an eternity where the pain of this world is gone. And in its place, the eternal joy of God's presence.

And that is why, today and every day, we give thanks to God in Jesus Christ who makes all things new.

Fun Facts About Latvia

Did you know that the Latvian flag is one of the oldest in the world? Even though the country of Latvia was officially founded in 1918, its flag dates to 1279 making it one of the oldest in the world.



As for its origin, there are several competing legends according to Carol P. Shaw in her work title “Flags.” One legend purports that the leader of an ancient Latvian tribe was mortally wounded in a battle and wrapped in a white sheet. Blood stained the sheet’s edges while the part on which he was lying remained white. Using his blood-stained sheet as a rallying flag, his tribe secured their victory at the very next battle.

According to another legend, a battalion from Cesis, a northern region in Latvia, carried a banner which flew over their famous castle. The banner was red with a white stripe down the center.

During the Soviet occupation of Latvia in 1940, the flag became illegal within Latvia itself and replaced with a redesigned Soviet Latvian flag. It wasn’t until Latvia regained its independence again in 1990, that the Latvian flag was reinstated as the official flag of Latvia.

Your Support is Greatly Appreciated



It has been a wonderful experience visiting you and your congregations as we raised support for this very important mission. God is doing wonderful things in the Eurasia region through the Rīga Luther Academy and I’m so happy for your partnership. A special thanks to Zion Lutheran in Presho, SD; Faith Lutheran in Merrill, WI; the South

Dakota District; and my former congregation, Faith Lutheran in Pierre, SD who went above and beyond in their support. To all of you who have supported me and continue to support me through your prayers and gifts, I cannot express enough my sincere thanks. And to all of you who’ve supported us through our friends at Mission Central, we are truly grateful.

If you’d like to support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Dr. Cory J. Rajek, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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



Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Cory Rajek.” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/rajek.

Or

You can also send your support to our friends at:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034



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