



Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator
blest, And make our hearts
Your place of rest; Come with
Your grace and heav'nly aid,
And fill the hearts which You
have made.*

*In You, with graces sevenfold,
We God's almighty hand
behold While you with tongues
of fire proclaim To all the
world His holy name.*

*Teach us to know the Father,
Son, And You, from both, as
Three in One. That we Your
name may ever bless And in
our lives the truth confess.*

LSB 499, v. 1, 3, 6



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cory.rajek@lcms.org

A New Year brings A New Position

by Cory J. Rajek



A photo taken on June 2023 in front of the altar at Svētā Jāņa Eвангēliski luteriskā baznīca (St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church) in Rīga, Latvia. Pictured are (L to R) Alexis, Emiley, Jenny and Cory.

*A*fter 8 years of faithful service as Regional Director for Eurasia, Rev. James Krikava stepped down from the position and was installed as the associate executive director for the Office of International Mission (OIM) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). But before he left Eurasia, and with the approval of President Matthew Harrison, Rev. Krikava appointed me to be the next regional director. And, after much conversation and deliberation, I was led to accept the position which began on January 1, 2023. To be clear, the regional director's role is one of coordination and supervision for all the work that the LCMS is doing in every Eurasian country.

The regional director is the primary interface between workers on the ground in Eurasia and our leadership and support in the US and serves as the chief advocate for the workers with the staff and

leadership in St. Louis. This means that, in addition to serving the people in Latvia, my family and I will have the opportunity to continue our partnership and serve people throughout the Eurasia region, which includes Iceland to the farthest tip of Russia (although, due to the war, not much is going on there right now), from Scandinavia to the Middle East and to the southern tip of India. Geographically speaking, it is the largest region in OIM. As I adapt to my new responsibilities, I humbly ask for your prayers.

My family and I are going to remain living in Riga, as we have come to love this place and its people. Yet our partnership with you expands to encompass a vast array of people and cultures. From the Holy Land to the birthplace of Lutheranism to the heart of Islam and to the former atheistic Soviet Union, the Eurasia Region engages everyone with Word and Sacrament ministry.



PLEASE PRAY:

- For the upcoming Synod convention and those who will be traveling.
- For Luther Academy in Riga that God would continue to bless our outreach efforts.
- For the Eurasia Region missionaries and their families that they find joy and satisfaction in their service.
- For the Ukrainians, especially the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine as they suffer from the effects of the war.

GIVE THANKS:

- For the successful renewal of our visas so that we can continue to serve God in the Eurasia Region.
- For the many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us in this important mission.

PRAISE GOD:

- For our faithful church partners throughout the world, especially those in the Eurasia Region who work side-by-side with us in this mission God gave.

New Position...cont.

This opportunity to reach others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is both exciting and overwhelming. As I have done in the past, once again, I ask for your continued support of the work I am doing on behalf of Christ and His church. Only this time, this work includes not only pastoral formation through Luther Academy in Riga, but also the added responsibility of supporting the Church's missionaries throughout the Eurasia Region. The potential we have as partners in this

mission is immense. Thank you and the Lord be with you!



The first confirmation at the English service at St. John's in Riga since our Latvian partner, Rev. Gints, and I relaunched services in August 2022. LCMS missionary, Rev. Cundiff is presiding with Rev. Gints looking on.

Rajek Family Update

by Jenny Rajek

Greetings from Riga, Latvia. It was a very busy school year for Emiley and Lexi. Emiley started college in January of 2023 as a student at Concordia University Nebraska. She will continue this fall working on a degree in Art Therapy. Emiley has arrived in Riga for the summer to visit. It is wonderful to have her here. Emiley was very glad to see her dogs again after almost a year.

working on completing her 11th grade requirements in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at the International School of Riga. IB is a rigorous college preparatory program. She will certainly earn her summer vacation once it arrives.

Lexi is currently in 11th grade and is still working hard in school at the time of this newsletter. She has been

I have recently taken over the responsibility for the upkeep of the Eurasia Facebook Page from Connie Cortright. Thank you to Connie for all her years filling this role for the region.

Visu Labu (All the Best)!

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support of the Lord's mission in Eurasia. We could not be touching people's lives with the message of Jesus Christ without you. Please prayerfully consider sharing this mission with others. Tell them of the good that God is doing throughout this exciting mission.

Once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you and the Lord be with you.

~Cory J. Rajek



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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Dr. Cory J. Rajek. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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On the memo line include *Rajek-Latvia*

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