



Siegelbach, Germany  
October 27, 2025

Dear friends,

If you haven't noticed yet, take a look at the new city listed up top. We no longer live in Landstuhl, but in Siegelbach, a smaller town that is part of the city of Kaiserslautern. With the girls starting school in the next few years, we knew that at some point we would like to move to Siegelbach so they can attend the Paul-Gerhardt-Schule—one of the few Christian schools in this area. Paul Gerhardt, of course, is one of our most famous Lutheran hymnwriters. So we see it as part of our mission to bring Lutheranism to a school like this! Our move also puts us closer to church (22km round trip instead of 50km). Besides the location factor, our landlord in Landstuhl was not willing to fix anything. The last straw for us was the asbestos tiling in the garage beginning to decompose. In May, Emma began looking online for places to rent in Siegelbach. We visited our new home on July 4th and signed the paperwork shortly thereafter. On a Saturday in August members from church helped us move all the larger furniture over. For the next month we made trips back and forth with smaller items. We handed over the keys to our Landstuhl home on September 11th and then had a house blessing/housewarming party later in the month. It was all bittersweet, of course. Landstuhl was such a big part of our life—Agatha and Cecilia's first home. It served us well for these past four years! Now we have a good landlord, though, who stays on top of maintaining his property. We also have more room to host multiple people at one time, so please do come visit us and experience the work going on here firsthand!

In our last newsletter, I mentioned taking over the Spangdahlem plant as vacancy pastor. In the middle of July the Domenichelli family moved back to the U.S. I've been continuing to celebrate Divine Service and Bible Study in a member's home in Veldenz twice per month, with the goal of eventually moving to a more visible location and holding services weekly. I also continue holding regular catechesis for a young married couple who just moved to the Spangdahlem area. At the beginning of October, I visited the chaplains at Spangdahlem Air Base to see about getting a slot at the chapel there for our services. They are excited about the possibility of filling the need for a liturgical Protestant service. The hope is to get something started there in December, and we further hope that an on-base service will allow us to find and gather the Lutherans in the area. Eventually the goal will be to move off-base and have a civilian parish, like what we have in Kaiserslautern. In the meantime, we are thankful for the doors God is opening for us to reach more military members with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Probably the most exciting news we can report since our last newsletter is the baptism and confirmation of a young Iranian in our congregation. Jeremiah arrived earlier in the summer to study molecular biology at the Technical University in Kaiserslautern. He grew up a Christian in Iran but was never baptized. He went through our catechesis program, studying Luther's Small Catechism leading to baptism and confirmation at the beginning of September. Jeremiah attends Divine Service, Bible Study, and Confessions Study regularly. I'm convinced he will be our first Persian pastor!

In July we had several visitors, including Rev. Stefan Gramanz, who joined us and several members at the Corpus Christi youth conference in Prague, Czech Republic. We also hosted Michael Wilke, a PhD candidate at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, who was in France for a conference and did a scouting trip to see about possibilities opening up for the LCMS to support the work of our French partner church. At the

same time, Pastor Schuschke, who was back in Europe for a wedding, came down to visit for a day. It just happened that all three happened to be visiting at the same time! So we enjoyed lunch and a trip to Burg Nanstein in Landstuhl. Another chance to meet with other pastors was our third “international Winkel,” this time held in Woerth, France, with two retired Synod of France pastors in attendance this time. We still plan to meet up three times a year. We finished discussing the doctrine of the Ministry and will be moving on to the doctrine of the Church.

In September we took a church group to Speyer to see the Lutheran Church. Two years ago, Pastor Brian Kachelmeier filled in for me while we were back in the U.S. for our “network support raising.” He brought back a book from the Lutheran Church in Speyer with all the artwork portraying the Old Testament types/pictures and the New Testament fulfillment. For the past 35 weeks at Sunday morning Bible Study, we’ve discussed each prophetic image of the Old Testament and its New Testament counterpart. An acquaintance from the conference I presented at in Landau last January works for the church archives in Speyer and was able to take us on a tour of the church, which included our singing of “The Church’s One Foundation.” Speyer is close to Worms. Worms is worth seeing to reflect on Luther’s “Here I stand” speech, but Speyer is a gem many people forget about!

Our summer travels continued with the LCMS Eurasia regional retreat in Varna, Bulgaria at the beginning of August. We again decided to drive this year to see some sites along the way. We drove through Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, the northern part of Bosnia, Serbia, and Bulgaria on the way, then through Romania, Hungary, and Austria on the way home. Our main speaker was Pastor Peter Bender from Sussex, Wisconsin. I used to attend his weekly catechesis while a student at Mequon and he also spoke at our 2018 Eurasia retreat when I was a vicar in Kaiserslautern. It’s always fascinating to compare notes after a few years. Besides the informative lecture on the Lord’s Prayer and catching up with the Benders, it was great to visit with the other missionaries in the region and learn more about their work.

At the end of August, we spent a few days in Erfurt, Germany, where Luther studied at the university and entered the Augustinian monastery. The conference I was speaking at was held at that very monastery. As an exchange student in 2013 I wasn’t able to stay at the monastery because they were full; this time I couldn’t stay because children aren’t allowed. Someday I’ll get to stay there! The conference was organized by a conservative group within the SELK. The topic assigned to me was “Christians and Congregations as Lighthouses of Love and Truth in the World.” I tied my presentation to the lighthouses I know from the Great Lakes region of the U.S. and the connections between the Lutheran Church in the U.S. and Germany throughout the years.

In the middle of September, I spent a few days in Hamburg to present on English-language outreach in Europe for the LCMS Eurasia Region’s first “Foro.” The Foro concept comes out of the LCMS Latin America/Caribbean region. The basic idea is to bring district representatives, interested laymen, various supporters, etc. together with missionaries, missionary staff from the U.S. and on the field to see the work going on firsthand and discuss future possibilities and partnerships for the region. On the way to Hamburg, I was able to bring the Lord’s Supper to some friends connected with our congregation. In Hamburg, I met up with the Kumar family, who moved to Hamburg over the summer and with Fernando, a Spaniard associated with KELC who also recently moved north.

Every trip we make is an opportunity to bring the Word of God and Christian community with us. For example, we spent the “Day of German Unity” (October 3) traveling to Aachen, Germany with a German member and a South African member off of work for the holiday to bring the Lord’s Supper and Christian community to an LCMS exchange student, Peter Preus, who otherwise doesn’t have much opportunity for in-person spiritual care for the next year. A few weeks later I brought the Lord’s Supper to a former member, Ben Baneck, en route through Germany after a deployment in Saudi Arabia. His unit would be passing through Hahn Airport for a few hours. He sent a pin of the exact location near the airport, so I made my way there. I walked through several barriers and some old U.S. military barracks with the windows smashed out until I came across what looked like a prison. There was Ben, behind two barbed wire fences and no chance for me to give him the Lord’s Supper. But we could chat for a while between the fences, pray with each

other, and depart with a blessing, all in the presence of multiple soldiers who must have been quite confused at first about a pastor showing up in such a strange location.

One of the joys of serving as pastor in a military context is being able to participate in the ups and downs of military life. Last time I spoke about the retirement of Jim Ponziano and the promotion of Daniel Hewes. Later in the summer, I was able to attend the reenlistment of Jonathan Kaster, whose dad serves as pastor of our sister congregation in Prague. I was also honored to “pin” Mason Westphal, who was promoted to Captain in the Air Force. Oftentimes this is done by a wife or mother, but a pastor can also step in, which was a high honor for me! Mason’s last day in Germany was St. Michael’s day (September 29th). Our St. Michael’s service, including our annual Michaelmas goose feast, was a bit emotional that evening without Mason present. He’s attended all our events faithfully for the four years he’s been here. It helps immensely, however, to think of his growth over the years and to think of his future as he pursues pastoral ministry. Mason has been accepted to the Fort Wayne seminary and will start there this summer.

Last year I wrote about how we were able to have Sam Childers, aka “Machine Gun Preacher,” speak at the military prison and at our men’s group. I’ve kept up with Machine Gun Preacher and saw he would be back in Germany. We lined it up again for him to speak at the prison and at a community event at Rhema cafe in Landstuhl last Tuesday, sponsored by our men’s group. We’re looking forward to the next time he comes to visit, probably one year from now.

Our women’s group has started up once again, meeting once per month to discuss the book of Ecclesiastes. The ladies of the congregation have organized this themselves, and I stay home to watch Agatha and Cecilia. Last Sunday after church, we drove to Braunschweig so Emma could attend a retreat of young pastors’ wives from the SELK. As the *Pfarrfrauen* spent time together, the pastors babysat the children; a fun but exhausting day!

This past week I spent two nights at the Old Latin School in Wittenberg for the first annual LCMS Eurasia church planting conference. The missionaries learned about language acquisition. I was able to present on English-language outreach in Europe, not just in Kaiserslautern, but in Frankfurt, Spangdahlem, Prague, and Padova, along with plans for future English-language church plants in the region, especially where there are high concentrations of U.S. military. It was great to see Peter Williams again, who will begin his vicarage in Kaiserslautern in January. Two missionaries rode back to Kaiserslautern with me—Chelsea Irwin, who organizes short-term mission teams out of the Czech Republic, and Anika Slayton, who will begin her deaconess internship under Deaconess Kim Bueltmann in Leipzig in January. Both missionaries joined us for the annual Kaiserslautern Military Community clergy/church worker Rhine River cruise.

Yesterday we celebrated Reformation Sunday, along with a Reformation party at the home of some members and a service for Spangdahlem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Veldenz. Next week, for All Saints’ Sunday, we’ll be in the United States! We fly out on Thursday for our biennial “home service” to present on the work here. See the full list of my speaking engagements on the next page. Hopefully we can see some of you soon! Thank you so much for your continued support of our work here in Germany. The Word of God is making so many inroads into people’s lives. Please keep us and our congregation in your prayers, in particular as we travel back to the United States, and that the LORD would keep opening doors for the Gospel of free forgiveness in Jesus Christ might continue to have free course in this place!

Jesus be with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Nathaniel Jensen". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Rev.", "Nathaniel", and "Jensen" being capitalized and prominent.

The Jensen Family

## Jensen Home Service Schedule, 2025

**Sun., November 2, 2025** - German service/presentation at Zion, Brooklyn Heights, NY

**Tues., November 4, 2025** - Potluck and presentation at Faith Lutheran in Groton, CT

**Wed., November 5, 2025** - Presentation at Christ the King, Pawling, NY

**Thurs., November 6, 2025** - Presentation at Our Savior, Westminster, MA

**Sun., November 9, 2025** - Presentation at First Lutheran, Boston, MA

**Wed., November 12, 2025** - Presentation at Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA

**Sun., November 16, 2025** - Presentation at St. Athanasius, Vienna, VA

**Wed., November 19, 2025** - Presentation at St. Paul, Carthage, NC

**Sun., November 23, 2025** - Presentation at Grace, Vine Grove, KY

**Sun., November 30, 2025** - Presentation at Peace, St. Louis, MO



The Jensen girls



Pastor Gramanz with Cecilia.



Every church we go to, Agatha first looks for the organ. Then she grabs a hymnal and sits in a pew.





In July, as a continuation of our congregation's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we took a church trip to the Kindsbach bunker, between Kaiserslautern and Landstuhl. This is where NATO kept an eye on all air traffic over Europe from the 1950s until the 1980s.



Congregational trip to the Lutheran Church in Speyer.





Our new home in Kaiserslautern-Siegelbach!

Moving party into the new place.

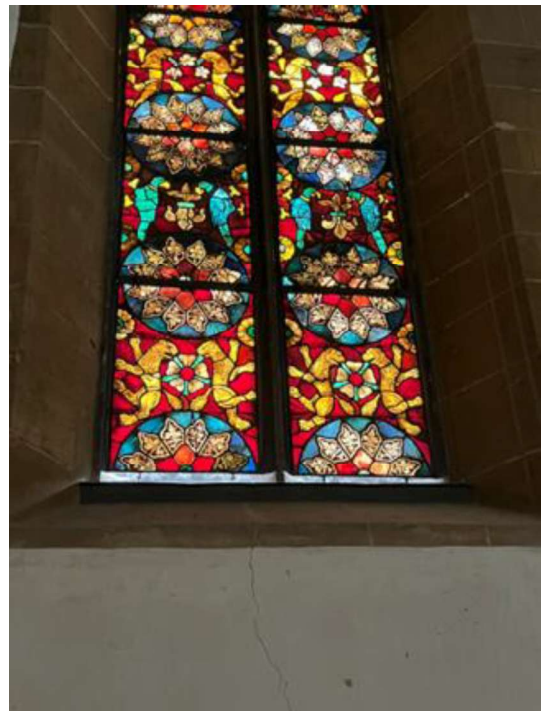




Presenting at the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt, where Luther was a monk.



If you look carefully at the windows in the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt, you can see a rose that looks very much like Luther's seal. Apparently Luther used this exact window as inspiration. The rose image is down below, in the red surrounded by golden lions.







At the Baptism of Jeremiah, our Persian member.



With my colleagues David Preus and Christian Tiews in Hamburg

With Mason (soon to start at the Ft. Wayne seminary) and Tobias Röhrs, our vicar from Riga Luther Academy, helping me at our house church service in Veldenz.



With the Kumars and Fernando in Hamburg







One of our supporters, Leslie Lewis, was able to attend a midweek Divine Service with her son, who lives in Germany. It's always great to meet the people who are so crucial for our ongoing work here. Please come visit anytime!



Trying to bring the Lord's Supper to Ben, a former member passing through our area.



Pastor Schüller playing cards with his children and Agatha while the moms were at a retreat for pastors' wives.



We were excited to have Machine Gun Preacher here again! Here he is (in the camo) with some of our KELC men's group and friends.

Jeremiah, our Iranian member, helping raise the American flag before our house blessing/housewarming party. His presence reflects the unity we have in the church despite current political conflict. The church transcends all that. May the LORD work through Jeremiah to bring many more Iranians into our congregation!



To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Jensen, 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 "Jensen-Germany Support." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/jensen](https://lcms.org/jensen).

You can also support the Jensen family through: MISSION CENTRAL: 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105. Mark checks: Nathaniel Jensen #A10798-69485