

Missionary Prayer Page

GLOBAL MISSION/EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



PRAY FOR

Jean and Stephen Godsall-Myers

Jean and Stephen serve as coordinators for the Wittenberg Center, helping congregations, individuals, universities, colleges, and seminaries develop spiritual and educational programs in Luther Land. They accompany our German partners to shape the direction of our cooperative ministry in Wittenberg, particularly during the Luther Decade. Along with other International Learning centers of the ELCA, they connect people of faith and grapple with historical and contemporary issues.



BIRTH DATES

Jean
Stephen

May 26
September 2

ANNIVERSARY

August 18

COMPANION
SYNODS

Southern Ohio
Northeastern Pennsylvania
Northwestern Pennsylvania
Minneapolis Area
Southeastern
Upper Susquehanna

COUNTRY OF SERVICE

Germany

Prayer Concerns

- ✚ Pray for the health of our family in the United States.
- ✚ Pray for our ability to create a sense of reciprocal welcome among partners in Wittenberg.
- ✚ Pray for the Church in Germany, particularly in the former Communist states, that it may find the resources and the encouragement to reach out to those outside the Church with the Good News of Jesus Christ
- ✚ Pray for the individuals, groups, and institutions who are planning for the decade-long celebration of the Reformation, that it would provide people throughout the world a chance to consider what the Reformation of the Church and being Christian mean in the 21st century.
- ✚ Pray for the young people in Germany, that they would look to their future with hope and promise.



Germany

(see letter from Jean and Stephen on the back side of this page)

As a sponsor of Jean and Stephen, you are asked to remember them with your prayers and your financial support. Gifts of any size are welcome. Please send support gifts to:
ELCA Office for Global Mission Support
Missionary Sponsorship
PO Box 71764
Chicago IL 60694-1764

Make check payable to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
On the memo line of your check write: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship

Dear Supporters of the Wittenberg Center,

We arrived in Wittenberg in August 2006 and are now comfortable with knowing our office, our work, and our fellow colleague, Renate Skirl, a native Wittenberger, who has been at the Center since its beginning in 1999. We have come to know our town and the wonderful community of people who live here. We hope that we can continue to reinforce the good will and reputation that the Center has in this community, thanks to the efforts of our predecessors.

We live in the Old Town. It is very comfortable with all the little shops we need—a baker, a meat store, a book store, even a convenience store that sells milk and Luther Brot (a small cookie). The Historic Mile is one mile from the western end of town, anchored by the Castle Church with its steeple erected by the Prussians in the late 1800s, to the eastern end, with the Augusteum/Luther Haus, where Luther lived as a monk and later as a family man. In the town center is the old Town Hall and the Town Church where Luther preached over 2000 times. We are part of the Castle Church Sunday School teachers' group and know that our turn may have us teaching the regular attendees as well as children from other parts of Germany and the world, who are in town as tourists. This makes for some interesting lesson prep! We sing with the Castle Church choir, but find occasions to attend worship and other events at both churches. It is very special to worship in these historic churches and realize that they are not museums, but living places where God's Word is preached and received by God's people!

Various groups arrive during the school year. We have enjoyed accompanying undergraduates, seminarians, faculty, and staff from the U.S. and from other countries, as the students learn from their professors and from our German partners about the treasures this region offers. Through the eyes of those new to Wittenberg, with the ELCA volunteers in the office, and in partnership with our German colleagues in the Center, we are perpetual enrollees in the course Germany 101. It is a terrific course—it is never over! There is no single textbook, although there is much to read. There is experiential learning and there is service learning. There are connections to be made to the past, the present, and the future. The bad news about the course? There is never enough time to get all the learning done. The good news about the course? The learning is never done!

Reformation Day in Wittenberg is a thrill. We participate in the Confirmation Gathering—over 500 confirmands visit Wittenberg on the eve of the Reformation celebration to stop at various stations around town where they learn about the Reformation, the Bible and the Church. The ELCA Center offers two stations, on such themes as “Jesus as the Living Water”, “Translating the Bible”, and “Church Music”. Our Reformation Day begins at 8:00 am, as we lead the English language worship service at the Castle Church. At the 10 a.m. German church service, we extend greetings, read lessons and offer prayers in English. The afternoon includes a public debate (disputation), concerts, and a Renaissance fair throughout the town.

As we spend time in Wittenberg, we continue to perceive that there is much more to learn about than merely the times of Luther and the Reformation. We meet many Germans with a story to tell, including the many who tell of being a Christian in the time of Communist East Germany. There is still pain as people speak of separation from family and friends experienced in those days. There is still the reality that the Church suffered greatly under the rule of state-sponsored atheism. There is still the reality of learning and living with reconciliation and forgiveness. We often serve as partners who can simply listen to another tell his or her story, both the good and the bad. We know this will be important as Germany celebrates 20 years of unification in the fall of 2009.

Our future work will include cooperation with German church entities establishing offices in Wittenberg for the Luther Decade. What will they teach us? How can we assist them?

We look forward to welcoming people from the United States to join us in the course, Germany 101. We know that we will learn with our guests, from our guests and for our guests as we tap the richness of German culture, history, faith and heritage.

Thank you for your prayers and your support of our ministry here in Lutherstadt Wittenberg!

Jean and Stephen