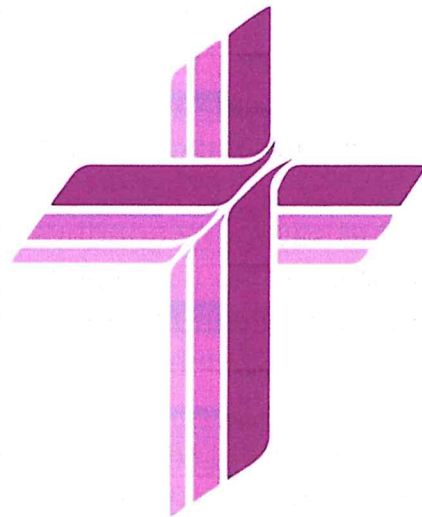


Serving the Lord in Riga, Latvia

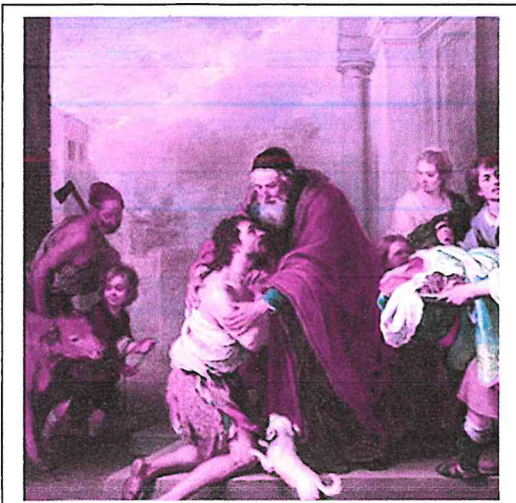
News from the Bobby Family



Dear Friends in Christ,

The parable of the prodigal son is a familiar and beloved Bible story. As many of us learned in Sunday School, there are two basic components of the parable. The first is the folly of turning your back on a loving father. The other is the joy of reunion. The goodbye of the prodigal son is so brazen and disrespectful that it could easily be categorized as a catastrophic goodbye. It takes the deep, unfathomable grace of a loving father to turn such a tragic goodbye into a joyful reuniting. This, of course, requires the son to realize his sin and remember the care he received in his father's home. When he returns home his father does not blame, disparage, or even reference the destructive goodbye. The only reference is to the joyful homecoming. "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate." (Luke 15:24 ESV)

The history of humankind since the fall in the garden, has been a history of catastrophic goodbyes. Generation after generation have turned their backs on God to chase their own desires. But God sends His Word, His prophets, pastors, and missionaries to turn the hearts of his people back to Him. Why? Because God rejoices in saving His people. "I tell you," Jesus says, "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:7 ESV).



Unfortunately, people who don't know Christ can only experience catastrophic goodbyes. The changes of life and the finality of goodbyes bring only sadness and hopelessness. Without someone to call them to repentance and to show them Christ's forgiveness, they will never have the hope of a joyous reunion.

Your support of God's work in Latvia at Luther Academy ensures that people all over Eurasia will hear the good news of their heavenly Father's love in Christ. They will hear that their goodbyes are temporary in light of the last day. I cannot help but think that through the work of God's people and through the support of saints like you, there will be many joyous reunions in heaven and on the Last Day.

Our family has had to say many goodbyes as we departed the U.S. for Latvia this past month. But in Christ we know these goodbyes are not forever. The reconciliation we experience now in Christ through Word and sacrament point us to an eternal joyous reunion with our Savior and all believers.

Thank you everyone for your prayers and support, and we look forward to updating you on our ongoing experiences here in Riga.

In Christ,

Rev. Samuel Bobby, Erica, Judah, August, Benjamin, Simon, and Pax

P.S. One of our most difficult goodbyes was to our eldest son, Judah. He has moved to Nashville, TN. Please keep him in your prayers, and we apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. This month was hectic, but we will do better in the future!

If you wish to support us financially, you can do so by contacting Mission Central in Mapleton, IA.

Mission Central – LCMS Mission Advancement

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