

the *Voice* of english lutheran



They had me at “dobrý den.” by Pastor Becky Goche

“Dobrý den.” Pastor Anne Hokenstad from Bethel Lutheran Church and I were greeted with these words every time we met someone in the Czech Republic. At the end of September, Pastor Anne and I were pilgrims on a journey to meet our sisters and brothers of our Synod’s new global companion, the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB). We were accompanied by 12 other people from across Europe. These simple Czech words meaning “good day” or “hello” transcended the barriers of language and culture that separated us and paved the way for us to begin our journey together.

During our week-long pilgrimage, we experienced extravagant hospitality as we visited people in large cities and small villages scattered throughout the Czech Republic. We listened to the people’s stories and shared ours. We heard of the challenges to be church in a country where only 15% of the population claims any religious affiliation. We visited places where the haunting memories of Nazi occupation are still palpable. We saw the ramifications of the painful secrets


that linger after communism. Through it all, I witnessed a resilient and hope-filled people.

Our pilgrimage ended with a worship service in the city square of Pardubice. As a communion server, I went up onto the stage that was filled with an orchestra, choir, and clergy to get one of the chalices of wine for one of the 12 communion stations. I was in awe seeing the thousands of people sitting, standing, and leaning out the windows of the buildings surrounding the square. This was a momentous day for the ECCB as it celebrated its 100th anniversary of when the Reformed and the Lutheran churches came together as one. While still seemingly “young,” the ECCB’s roots go back one hundred years before our own Martin Luther to Jan Hus who was martyred in 1415.

Please join me at the Adult Forum on November 4 in the South Hall, beginning at 9:45 a.m. to hear more about my experiences with our new global companion.

General Fund Report - September 2018

RECEIPTS	CURRENT MONTH			YEAR-TO-DATE		
	Actual	Budget	2017 Actual	Actual	Budget	2017 Actual
Envelope Offerings	33,162	26,550	25,971	286,648	337,500	280,034
Simply Giving Plan	24,218	23,700	22,135	227,217	219,447	200,358
Other General	1,119	4,040	4,040	14,701	14,850	17,991
General Fund Total	58,499	54,290	52,146	528,566	571,797	498,383
Benevolence	30			2,014		1,251
TOTAL	58,529	54,290	52,146	530,580	571,797	499,634
Communion Fund	603			4,728		
Memorials	275			16,999		
Hungry Jar	924			5,079		
DISBURSEMENTS						
Benevolence	6,839	5,013	4,815	56,987	62,658	58,197
Stability Triangle	50,068	44,038	42,734	440,198	471,843	419,048
Five Big Rocks	4,706	772	802	35,759	48,267	26,779
TOTAL	61,613	49,823	48,351	532,944	582,768	504,024
Gain (Loss)	(3,084)		3,795	(2,364)		(4,390)
Communion Fund	1,735			13,728		
Hungry Jar	414			4,252		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>NOVEMBER</h1>						
4 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Educ./Coffee Hour 9:45a 4 th Gr. Milestone 12:00p New Member Orientation 6:30p HS Youth Group	5	6 Election Day Come for Supper & Hillview Day 6:30a Men's Faith Forum 8:45a Quilters 6:00p Evangelism Council	7 3:30p Property Comm. 6:30p NM Faith Wkshp Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	8 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 6:30p WWG 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	9	10 New Member Wk 5:00p Worship
11 Burritos/NM Wkd 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Educ./Coffee Hour <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">HS Retreat</div>	12	13 8:45a Quilters 4:00p Internship Comm. 5:30p Joint Council 7:00p All Councils	14 10:00a Ministry Council 5:30p Youth Steering Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	15 Mini-Voice Ddln. 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 5:30p Interfaith Partners 6:30p WWG 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">HS Retreat – through Sunday</div>	17 5:00p Worship
18 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Educ./Coffee Hour 6:30p HS Youth Group	19	20 6:30a Men's Faith Forum 8:45a Quilters 6:00p Marketing Team	21 12:00p Comm. Convo. 7:00p Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social NO DINNER OR PROGRAMMING!	22 Thanksgiving Day  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Office Closed</div>	23	24 5:00p Worship
25 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour	26 12:00p Senior Fun & Fellowship	27 8:45a Quilters 1:30p Mary Circle 6:30p Vision Board	28 Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	29 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 6:30p WWG 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	30 6:30p PACK	<i>We're always adding new events! To see a full schedule, including community groups, visit www.englishlutheran.org and click on "Calendar."</i>