SERVING THE LORD IN

GERMANY

NEWS FROM PETER WILLIAMS

January 2026

Preaching at Spangdalem Airforce base.

Prayer requests

With the exiting work in process, and to come, there are plenty of things to pray for.

In particular, please pray for:

- Finalizing my German visa and other paperwork.
- Blessings on the Persian ministry workshop in February.
- Prayers for the congegration of Saint Jean in Saint-Maur as they search for a new pastor.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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Lcms.org/williams

The work begins!

Dear saints in Christ,

Thanks be to God that I arrived safely in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Epiphany, January 6! It was a busy day indeed, getting moved into my apartment and then staying up till the evening service where I was officially installed as the vicar for the congregation and the region.

I was extremely blessed by the warm welcome. The congregation has a mix of Americans (mostly military) and Germans. Though most of our services are in English, there is a lot of work done in German, including catechesis/teaching and occasional prayer services. I was thrilled to get thrown right into the mix of the English and German work, including visiting local military installations, praying Vespers in German, and preaching in English the 18th.

I also accompanied Pastor Jensen to a regional clergy fellowship which is an opportunity to dialogue with other missionaries in the area.

On January 17th, I traveled with Pastor Jensen to the Lutheran Seminary (Hochschule) in Oberursel for a student's convention on theology.

We also made visits this month to a local Army prison where Pastor Jensen holds a weekly bible study. It was incredible experience to say the least.

Vicarage in Paris

Preaching at Saint Jean.

The weekend of January 23-26 I made my first visit to the Paris region, the town of Saint-Maur-des-Fossés specifically. The people of the congregation of Saint Jean (St. John) received me with enthusiasm and it was awesome to meet a small but solid group, on fire for Christ and His Word. Some have been Lutheran their whole lives, and others are recent converts, seeking the true doctrine and faith of the Christian Church.

Pastor Gleisson Schmidt, pastor in the 15th arrodissement of Paris and president of the French Synod, was also there to formally welcome me as a part-time vicar at Saint Jean. In discussion with Pastor Schmidt and the congregation, I learned my role here will include local evangelism. I pray God gives me wisdom and creativity as I support the churches of Paris and Saint-Maur to spread the Gospel to all who would hear it.

I also was blessed to preach that Sunday. It was no small challenge I must admit, to preach in French for the first time after being away from the country for over five years! But by God's grace, I prepared as best I could and I believe it went better than I expected.

We also made plans for the future and I am expected to return in February and begin thereafter regular two-week visits. We also have plans to start a bible study on Revelation, based on a commentary written by the French Lutheran theologian Wilbert Kreiss. Kreiss was extremely influential across the French speaking world, writing Bible commentaries as well as a three-part dogmatics. I expect to enjoy studying his works, as a way to help me both better understand the Scriptures and

(Above) Saint Jean church (St. John) in Saint-Maur-des-Fossés, France.

(Right) members of Saint Jean with myself and Pastor Schmidt.

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."

Persian ministry, and looking ahead

My work with Persian has also gotten started, specifically with Iranian exchange students at the Technical University of Kaiserslautern. Pastor Jensen baptized a young Iranian student last year. I've made one visit to the University to meet with the student, practice Persian, and generally talk about the faith. My hope is to start a monthly student bible study on campus, starting with the Iranian exchange students but of course branching out to whomever is interested. Next month, I will be attending a Persian ministry workshop in Wittenberg. I will also be meeting with Pastor Christian Tiews (LCMS Missionary in Hamburg) to establish concrete plans for getting me involved in the Persian ministry across Germany.

Thank you so much for your prayers concerning this work. I am so grateful that God has brought me thus far, through your support and Christian love. Stay tuned for more exciting news in February!

(Right) Me with Jeremiah, the Iranian exchange student, and his fiancée after service at the Kaiserslautern congregation.

(Above) Sunday bible study at Kaiserslautern Ev. Luth. Church (KELC).

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS WORK?

There are many ways to get involved and partner with me in the European mission field. First, please pray for me and the countless souls that need to hear the Gospel.

You may also consider a financial contribution through lcms.org/williams.

Please feel free to share my newsletter. I also am always happy to receive your questions, comments, or simple greetings through my email: peter.williams@lcms.org.

(Above) Members of KELC getting ready for the Divine Service.