

4/21/2020

Hello Immanuel Family,

We hope you are well during these crazy and tumultuous times. We have been praying for you amidst the fear and unknown that has been so prevalent due to the pandemic. We hope you and your loved ones are safe at this time. In my preaching class the other day, we were reading a few sample sermons for discussion. We read a beautiful sermon written by Luther where he reminded the people listening that because of Jesus' resurrection and defeat of death, we no longer need to fear dying. It is not that death is not scary, but rather we know that we belong to the one who has taken away death's sting. We pray that you are reassured of that same knowledge and comfort.

We also wanted to update you on what is happening with us. We were really excited in our last letter to share that we were going to Argentina to study this upcoming year. As we shared with Pastor, unfortunately due to COVID-19, the study abroad program has been suspended for the year. We are disappointed not to be living abroad but are excited for the opportunity to go on vicarage now! While on vicarage, I will have a chance to do ministry under the supervision of a pastor (kind of like student-teaching, but for pastors). We are both thrilled to get involved in



On one of our walks, a random stranger came up to us and asked us to take our photo. She emailed us this later that day.

hands-on ministry during this next year. At this point, we do not yet know where we will be for vicarage. We find out this upcoming Tuesday (4/28) during our Call Day service. I believe Pastor already sent out the information, but here is the link nevertheless!

<https://www.csl.edu/academics/call-day-services/> The service starts at 7pm!

Melanie has been working from home, and all of my classes have been moved online for the rest of the semester. Melanie and I have been trying to make the most of this influx in time at home. We greatly miss being around other people (we are both extroverts), but we have enjoyed getting a bit more time with each other. We have been playing card games (Melanie wins about 95% of the time), doing puzzles, going on bike rides, and watching movies.



This is Melanie working on the final section of one of the puzzles we did. This was by far the most difficult one.



Melanie and I on Easter morning. My family requested that we take a nice, dressed up photo to send to them.

We were very thankful for Easter. While we longed to meet as a congregation, we were thankful to still hear the victory of Jesus' resurrection preached at our field work church (via live stream). In addition to the service, we hid plastic eggs around the house for our own little Easter egg hunt, and we cooked a large dinner, including a 10 lb. ham that was donated as a part of the seminary's food bank. Neither of us had ever tried to cook anything quite like that, but I think we did pretty well and learned a lot in the process!

As stated earlier, we are praying for you and your wellbeing. If there is anything specific that we can be praying for, please let us know (aarsvoldp@csl.edu). May God's peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds amidst this uncertainty.

God's Richest Blessings,

PJ & Melanie Aarsvold

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