

NATHAN OVERTON'S

YAGM Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2020

LEARN HUNGARIAN WITH ME!

Colors - Színek (seen-ek)

Color - Szín (seen)

Red - Piros (pier-Oh-sh)

Green - Zöld (Jzold)

Yellow - Sárga (Sar-ga)

Blue - Kék (K-eh-k)

Purple - Lila (Leela)

Orange - Narancssárga (nar-ann-ch-sar-ga)

Black - Fekete (Feh-ket-eh)

White - Fehér (Feh-air)

Brown - Barna (barn-a)

DOODLE OF THE MONTH



Dec. 2019 Stained glass



Jan. 2020 Monkey

“Angels Morning”

During the Advent season here in Szarvas, the “Old Lutheran Church” host a morning service each day. People all come to the services each morning before going to work or to school. Every morning a different person or group of people serve as the ‘host’. They were people of all ages and groups from schools sang or shared a thank you to the community or shared a favorite part or memories of the Advent and/or Christmas season.

I was honored to host one day with the help of a class from grade 6. They sang for the members of the community a Christmas song. I got to share about a live drive through of the life of Jesus Christ that I have been a part of for much of my life. Each time the Christmas



Every speaker of an “angels morning” service is given a candle.

season came, you could find me in either the scene of the sermon on the mountain or the birth of Christ as a Shephard or even Joseph!

I shared about how beautiful it is that the church hosts this awesome presentation that is free for people from all over to come and witness the beautiful life of Christ. I shared my favorite part of the experience with the community too.

The best part, in my opinion, of this event is the people that you get to volunteer with. We work in shifts, so during the time spent inside with friends and church members that you may not see as much during the year is always a blessing. To talk about everyone’s plans for the season and to catch up on life. The time inside is full of having fun with each other, eating good food, staying warm, and sharing in laughter that is so joyful. The only thing better is that it is always amazing to me that the story of Christ and the love of God never changes, it’s always the same during the Christmas season and throughout the whole year.

Christmas All Around

All around Szarvas the lights and decorations appeared. The dark bike rides and walks through this small city quietly and quickly became full of love, light, and joy. It reminded me of any road you may go down in a city in the Carolinas, each light post decorated and illuminated to light the way. Trees wrapped in lights, Christmas music echoing from corners once unexplored by my two feet, now a part of my Christmas memory of Szarvas.

One day at school an

English class I work with was practicing for a concert where all the different language classes sing Christmas songs from the different tongues. The song was “Mary’s Boy Child.” This was amazing and humous to me because every time I had walked or biked through the city center that song was already playing or began as I passed through.

During the week of Christmas, I was invited out to community members houses to celebrate and share in meals. I



was welcomed to three different and wonderful nights of playing games, trying delicious traditional Hungarian Christmas dishes, and feeling the love that comes with Christmas.

Frosty Adventures



a part of.

I knew there was a windmill of importance somewhere in Szarvas, but I didn't know that it was where I was headed. I got to the end of the path and saw the windmill and a flag, standing still in the frozen air. It was placed here in the 19th century and signifies the Treaty of Trianon. From what I understand, a working windmill used to be at the public beach area I often visit when I go down to the river, and this one was stylized to reflect it!



The windmill marking historic Hungary's center

I awoke one day during this past winter break to see that the trees and ground and everything around was surrounded in a beautiful frost that has since lasted almost everyday. I decided that it would be a perfect day to walk down to the river and see if it had frozen over any and to see all the trees in their new coatings.

I got down to the river to see that it was not only frozen over, but the water level was far less than what I was used to. It was an amazing sight to see. I decided to take a different way home to experience the frost, that at the time I believed wouldn't be around long.

In Szarvas there is a Commemoration path that was put into place to mark the 1000th anniversary of Hungary's foundation. It is a little over 1 km

and the path has 17 monuments that each represent an important time or phase from the history of Hungary. I had already seen two of the monuments not thinking much of it, I was gifted a book full of information about Szarvas and its history, and from reading it I realized I had "found" the path! And so, off I went!

I kept walking and stopping at each monument to make out what I could from the plaques. It was a beautiful walk and I passed many people. Each time I would become a little hesitant as I was walking in an unfamiliar area and without knowing what would be on the other side. As each group of people came close, each time it ended up being a familiar face of someone I knew or had met before! It was such a surreal and awesome reminder of the close community I am getting to be

"...awesome reminder of the close community I am getting to be a part of."

Thanksgiving?



Getting to share with the primary school

Thanksgiving is not a holiday celebrated in Hungary. I did get to celebrate the day in a new way. I was asked to make and give a big presentation of what Thanks-

giving is, why it is recognized, and how it is celebrated in the USA and by my family.

I shared about all the parades that happen in the morning, the football games in the evening, and the food eaten all day long. Before my presentation a few of the students put on a skit based on the television show "Dallas",

and it was quite funny, and funnier still when I had to admit I had only ever heard of the show before. The students then got to 'celebrate' Thanksgiving by playing Americas favorite past time, baseball, and other stations as they rotated. For dinner I had spaghetti in place of the usual turkey and dressing, thankful all the same.

Coming Together Again

Cohort almost at our destination.



ing life on earth. During my cohorts Advent retreat we attempted a hike to go visit a nearby church. What could have been a nice hike ended up being a very muddy and slippery journey up and down hills and roads of no 'safe' place to step. It was a true experience to live through, and

the church because the hill down to and back from the church building was to slippery and steep to risk taking. We had almost reached pavement after walking over the majority of the hike when after all the sliding and close-calls, I felt my feet slide together to the right and my body falling to the left, there was no place to catch myself and no mud-free place to even attempt finding solid footing, and thus I fell and became covered. Its s experience and day I will not soon forget.



I am sure that Jesus encountered His fair share of muddy roads dur-

one that my cohort did together. We did not end up getting to go to

Bike Life

In Szarvas practically everyone rides a bicycle as their choices of commute. There are a fair share of cars, but far more bicycles out and about, even in colder weather. The age to get a drivers license in Hungary is 18, which means the majority of students must walk or travel to school by cycling. One day I was riding to school and my bicycle tire completely came apart! I had been having trouble with the air levels in

this same tire. I was almost at school and simply had to walk the rest of the way. After school was out, I went to the repair shop and all is well after waiting and working with the shop owner to understand each other and what was needed to be done.

With biking place to place also comes the experience of finding a spot to park it, When driving and trying to find a parking spot,

one may experience the thrill of finally finding a spot only to find that a small car is parked there already and you just didn't see it! The equivalent to this in Szarvas has been finding a spot only to find a scooter in what I thought was an open space.

"...my bicycle tire completely came apart!"



Pictures!



Seasons changing!

An Advent worship experience with my cohort from our retreat



One of the monuments from the path to the Historic center of Hungary.