

UMC of Latvia Cesis congregation ministry 2016/08 – 2017/02

We hold each Sunday service and one hour prior to worship we have prayer time. We place emphasis on the cultivation of the life of prayer – for we do experience the results and we see how God is leading our church, heals families, strengthens the ministry and the hearts of His people.

Once a month we visit elderly people who are unable to come to the church and offer them our time and attention as well as the Holy Sacrament.

On Tuesdays regularly we hold ecumenical prayers at our Methodist church, which includes the participation of ladies from at least 5 other denominations – we are trying to strengthen believers in whole Cesis. On Thursdays we have regularly now small group meeting where we pray, study the word of God and share testimonies with each other how God is leading us and where we struggle!

New ministry we launched on Thursdays 6pm before the small group - Worship evenings - it strengthens our hearts and helps to open up for testimonies. Through that we also prepare ourselves for participation at UMC of Latvia Song Festival – and we are honored this year to host the festival in Cesis. I would like to praise and thank the Laity at Cesis church – as they more and more assume their responsibilities and serve with the talents that each of them have.

Every month we publish our church newsletter. We are including in it various topical and pressing themes, as well as one sermon from the month. We try through the assistance of this newsletter to reach out to those church members who have long time skipped the church as well as those who for various reasons are unable to attend church.

We also serve regularly at the Hope Centre. I as a pastor travel once a week to Hope Centre and it started about 7 months ago, since there was a need for baptism classes. And I felt in my heart that I should continue to serve in this ministry even after the baptism training by involving Cesis church members. This year we served not only with our sister church from Smithfield at the Hope Center but also by ourselves with soap casting workshop, I brought with me my girlfriends who have children in order to offer experience exchange and my husband's sister - who is in the same age as those girls and is bringing up her little daughter as a single mother as well – her testimony inspired girls and I realized that we need to make once in a while girl evenings. In February we gave a gift to Hope Center girls "Moms' Day Out" – we were babysitting their children, cooking meals for them and we took moms out for a fun and relaxation program! We very much appreciate the work of Hope Center director Gita Binane and all the nannies and we acknowledge that we can support and help in them in this ministry.

Having said all that I can put my hand on heart and say that Cesis church with slow but steady steps is rising in the power of Christ and goes out to serve! On December 23rd our church celebrated the baptism in Hope Center - two girls and four babies were baptized and one girl renewed her baptism and then some small children who were baptized last year ran to the alter and said: "I also want!" The fruit of this ministry are following - three Hope Center girls with their children come to us in Cesis on Sundays Worship and one of them travels also on Thursdays to attend the small group. On December 25th in our own Cesis church at first Christmas worship service we celebrated the baptism and confirmation. We had one baptism, seven renewals of the baptism and eight confirmations. Out of this we started a new small group.

Through this ministry we also have acknowledged that a small group of children are getting together now. We have more parents with kids and that means that we are about to start a Sunday school for children. We need God's wisdom, but also we need His help to open adult hearts to hear the call in this ministry!

If in short terms I would have to reveal how the church of Cesis has been doing during this period, I must reveal that through scripture – Ephesians 3:16-21 *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or*

imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

We have consolidated the many families on the path of Jesus Christ and I believe that the work would bear fruit for generations to come! Praise be to God!

UMC of Latvia Cesis congregation pastor
~ Kristine Rozefelde