

Lynne & Steve Funck      August 31- Sept 21, 2022  
Germany, Luther sites, Oberammergau, Liechtenstein

Baltimore to Berlin 8/31-9/1

Greetings from Iceland!                      3::30 a.m.

This morning we packed and did miscellaneous things.

Gpa, our granddaughter Joanna's other grandfather, took us to BWI airport. Our plane was full so they took our carry-on luggage when we checked in. We are to retrieve it in Berlin. The airport was almost empty, surprisingly few people for 6 p.m. on a Wednesday night

We wandered around, found a Quizmo's Sub for supper.

We took Icelandic Air, leaving about 9 p.m. for a 5 hour flight to Reykjavik, Iceland. We arrived here at 6 a.m. So I guess Iceland is 4 hours ahead of us. We were on a 737, and it had legroom!!!! It was nice to be able to stretch out! All they gave us was a glass of orange juice.

I watched the sun start to rise - very red sky on the horizon. Then there was a very dark black cloud so the sunrise disappeared. We were over the clouds next - the clouds below were full of crevices and troughs.

We landed in Iceland, it's cold, glad my jacket was easily available, because it's about 55 here! We took a bus from the plane to the terminal, standing room, no seats. We then went through Iceland Customs. It's very crowded at this airport at 6 a.m. in the morning!

Since our plane's gate wasn't listed, we wandered to the food section. It smelled good, so, even though it is 2 a.m. Baltimore time, we shared a stack of 4 pancakes with berry mix on top. I decided to taste Icelandic food! Glad we got it since they didn't give us any food on the next plane!

Then we had to rush to our gate - they were already starting to load. We again took a bus out to our plane. The sun is up though the sky is mostly cloudy. Another full flight.

Our next flight to Berlin is 3 hours, 15 min. Germany is 6 hours ahead of us in Baltimore.

We're about to take off. More later.

Greetings from Hotel-Pension Funk in Berlin!

5:20 p.m.

We had an uneventful flight from Iceland to Berlin. We flew over the very south of Norway and also a bit west of Copenhagen, Denmark - lots of islands in Denmark!

After picking up our luggage (no customs to go through in Berlin!), we tried to find the train to take us close to our hotel. Steve tried to buy tickets from the ticket machine, but was unsuccessful. By the time he got the tickets, the train was gone. So we went back upstairs to buy some lunch - got a salty dough bread with greasy cheese and 2 pork sausages on it, not sure of its name. Then Steve found a subway to take - the gps said to walk 0.7 miles to the station. But the subway started in the airport, so we got on there! We rode for 53 minutes, 19 stops, until we arrived at the Zoological Park station.

From there we walked for a number of blocks to the hotel. A kind young lady from Brooklyn NY followed us in and volunteered to carry our suitcases up - I took her up on the offer. The hotel is on the third floor, two lonnnngggg flights up (45 steps). It was a residential hotel, people lived here, until 1991. One lady was a famous film star. But the building is old, built in 1895 and not bombed in World War II, with beautiful 12' ceilings with molded plaster on the ceiling. Our room is very pretty! The hotel reminds us of the Hotel Rachmaninoff (named for the composer who lived there) in St. Petersburg, Russia, where we stayed years ago - it was on the fifth floor with no elevator.

We just came back from supper - it's 8:30 and soon we'll go to bed. We haven't slept for 28 hours and we're tired! We walked down the street, found a restaurant/bar where we first were served a small dish of large green olives and 3 pieces of rustic bread, along with extra virgin olive oil. That was before we were handed a menu! We ordered a cheese plate which had a spicy raspberry jelly included. We also shared a pasta with salmon. Both were very good.

It was sunny all day, about 61.

Thanking God for safe flights.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Sunrise around 5 a.m. over the Atlantic Ocean on way to Iceland



The top of the clouds were interesting with troughs and hills!



The border of Denmark with a road around the island edge, clouds over some of the land.



Steve Funck at Pension Funk, Berlin





Our room in Pension Funk

Berlin 9/2

Guten Tag!

We slept fairly well last night, after being awake so many hours.

We ate breakfast in the Breakfast Room - there was a variety of foods: yogurt, breads, sweet breads, rolls, granola, fruit salad, sliced meats, cheeses, hard boiled eggs, all very good.

We walked the block to the main street, then another block until we found the "City Circle, Hop On, Hop Off" bus. We bought tickets, then waited for one to come - they come about every 20 minutes. We were given earphones. We got on the open top, plugged in our earphones, chose English, and off we went. The "guide" told us what to look at and a bit of history at times as we went along.



We passed the Kurfurstendamm ("ku'damm) which is 4 large intersecting metal pipes which do not touch, symbolizing the 4 sectors of Berlin after World War II which are no longer. We saw part of the Berlin Wall which is enclosed so no one takes a piece of it. Checkpoint Charlie is a block away. One of the stops was by the Neptune Fountain in front of the tv tower. We saw another section of the Berlin Wall - this one has large paintings on it.

We got off at the Lustgarten (pleasure garden) which is now just a grassy area. We went in the War and Peace building which just has a single statue inside. Then we walked to Museum Island. The cafe in the Pergamon Museum with the cyclorama was closed, so we walked back across the street to Jolly Restaurant, food of East Asia. We shared the Businessman lunch of (spicy) Peking soup (egg drop with a beef base), egg fried rice and duck meat - very good

Then we went back to the Pergamon Museum which features original sculptures from Pergamon, Turkey. It has a huge painted panorama of Pergamon in A.D. 129. The Pergamon Altar is actually a temple. The Telephos Frieze was on the altar - it was found in pieces and an artist recreated what he thinks it should look like. We could climb the 64 steps to a viewpoint to look over the cyclorama (but we were able to take an elevator part of the way up). The panorama included the altar, the work area where sculptures were created, a theater arena for plays, the acropolis - it was amazing!

Then we tried to get to the original Pergamon Museum which is undergoing renovation - after going the wrong way we were directed to how to get to the other end of the island (which involved crossing the river twice) to a different way in. It's the fifth and last museum building on Museum Island, opened in 1930. It houses objects from the Collection of Classical Antiquities, the Museum of the Ancient Near east, and the Museum for Islamic Art. It is world-famous for the impressive reconstructions of ancient buildings. The Market Gate of Miletus (first century B.C.) is 17 m long, 29 m high, the most wholly preserved Roman Gate in a museum in the world. It is 60% original. There was a mosaic floor from Miletus. The Procession Street of Babylon and the glazed blue tile Ishtar Gate (from the sixth century B.C., 46' high, 100' wide), both from Babylon, are installed here. The Ishtar Gate was one of the original Seven Wonders of the World. Aleppo Room shows guest rooms in a Christian household in an Islamic region.

By then we were tired, so decided to not go to the other 4 museums on the island. The Berlin Cathedral - Lutheran was on our way back to the bus stop, so we went in. Emperor Wilhelm II initiated the construction of this cathedral, built from 1893-1905 in a mixture of Italian High Renaissance and Baroque styles. It had some Tombs of Prussian Kings on the main floor more in the crypt. During WW II the cathedral was badly damaged, after being hit by a bomb, the dome fell into the interior. Starting in 1975 it was rebuilt.

We walked past the Lustgarten (in front of the cathedral) to the bus stop. Then we waited and waited. The six o'clock church bells rang for several minutes. Finally about 15 minutes late our bus came. We rode down Unter den Linden (famous street with

the Brandenburg Gate at the end), past the Brandenburg Gate, past the Reichstag (Germany's historic parliament building), past the Hauptbahnhof (railroad station), past the Victory Column, past the Elefantentor (gate to the zoo), and back to our starting point.

Since it was already 7 p.m., we walked around, looking for a restaurant. Since we ate Italian last night, and Chinese for lunch, we wanted a German restaurant. We finally found Alt-Berliner Biersalon. We split smoked pork with pickled sour cabbage (we call it "sauerkraut") and potatoes. We didn't finish the liter of beer. Then we walked back to our hotel. We're tired!

It was sunny, about 70.

Hope your day is good!

God bless you,  
Lynne and Steve



TV tower. When the sun shown on the sphere, it created a shining cross, which did not make the Communists happy. Locals therefore called the tower St. Ulbricht's (Ulbricht was the atheist Dictator of East Germany).



Some of the statues from Pergamon



Pergamon altar on the panorama. The animals were sacrificed at the bottom of the steps, then carried to the altar at the top. The Telephos Frieze is below the colonnade in the foreground.







The sculpture workshop on the panorama



Processional Way of Babylon in the Pergamon Museum





Ishtar Gate of Babylon



Market Gate of Miletus



Part of the wall of the Apollo Room, a 17th century Christian-oriental residential house from Aleppo (Syria). Note the Last Supper.







I think it's a caracara



White headed vultures



Steve by the dinosaur at the entrance to the aquarium - we didn't pay to go in





Lynne by the Elephant Gate - there were statues of elephants outside the gate



Pandas sleeping together





Close-up of the baby panda

Berlin to Dresden 9/3

Greetings from Dresden!

Happy Birthday to our younger daughter, Katherine!

This morning we had breakfast in the breakfast room again - only one other couple there. We packed up, checked out, left our suitcases at the hotel.

We walked the 6 blocks to the Berlin Zoo. We wandered around the zoo for several hours. There are many animals we've never seen before, including many in the antelope family and many birds. The elephants were near the entrance we went in, not the Elephant Gate, so they were the first animals we saw. There are a couple of play areas for children - our granddaughter would have loved the main one with lots of whimsical structures and slides.

There are at least 5 aviaries. The bird house had different sections for birds from each continent - the South American birds were numerous and colorful. The sea lions were putting on a show (not a planned one), many people were enjoying watching them. We eventually found the 3 panda bears, 2 were sleeping next to each other, the baby was in a cage alone. We enjoyed the tigers, jaguar, and lions. The monkey house was huge! We ran out of time and energy before we saw the whole zoo.

God certainly made so many magnificent and different and interesting animals for us to enjoy! Our evening devotion had Psalm 8, which felt perfectly with the animals in the zoo.

Then we walked the 6 blocks back to the hotel, picked up our luggage, walked the 5 blocks back to the train station. We took a train to the main station in Berlin. We had to take a number, wait our turn until we could finally talk with an agent to purchase the tickets to Dresden. The elevator went up when we pushed the down button, but we finally got to the bottom to the right platform and waited 20 minutes for our train.

The train ride was okay. When the train stopped in Dresden, we gathered our things, but didn't make it off the train before it pulled away. Fortunately it then stopped at the main station in Dresden where we got off. We finally found a tram which took us next to the train tracks, across the Elbe River, and we got off at the first stop then. We started walking, saw a hotel ahead, but it wasn't the right one. So we checked the gps and discovered we'd already passed our hotel which was on the other side of the street. So we walked back.

The clerk checked us in for 3 days, but Steve had planned 4 days here, so that needs to be fixed tomorrow. We left our suitcases in the room, then walked a couple of blocks to the first restaurant we saw - I was very hungry by then! We shared an order of goulash, it had 4 pieces of bread plus raw onions. The bread seemed to have something like corn flour on it, not sure what it was. It was very noisy in the restaurant. We then walked a couple of more blocks, looking for a place to eat breakfast, but the only bakery we saw is closed on Sundays.

We've walked more than 5 miles each of the last 2 days, today it was over 6.5 miles. Our feet and legs are weary!

When we walked into our hotel room and put the key card in the slot, the electricity turns on - we've had that first in China, several places since then. But here, the tv turns on with colorful fish in an aquarium! Never have seen that before!

Photos didn't work tonight.

Have a good Lord's Day!

God bless you,  
Lynne and Steve



Frauenkirche







Front of Frauenkirche



Inside dome of Frauenkirche



Residenzschloss on left. All of this was destroyed in World War II.







Inside the large courtyard of Residenzschloss. All is tromp d'oil

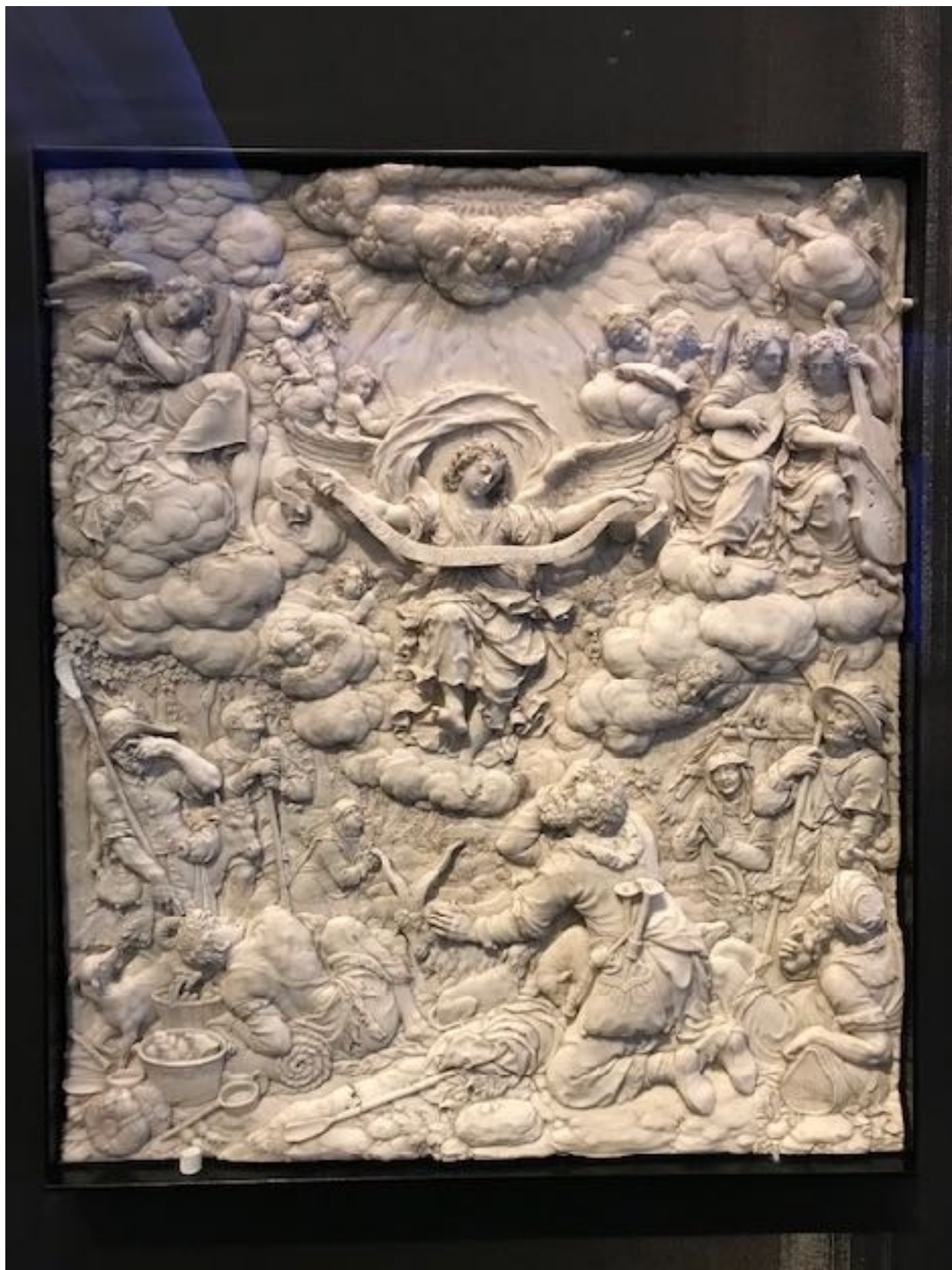


Rolling Ball Clock a rock crystal ball rolls down 16 bends in 60 seconds, advancing the minute hand, and Saturn at the top strikes a bell with his mighty hammer.



Ivory - someone was very skilled to carve ivory into these shapes!





Ivory - the annunciation of the angels to the shepherds



Grand Mogul Aurangzeb's birthday - 132 figurines and 32 gift items - all of pure gold glazed with enamel







Working on conserving a painting of the Old Masters



I liked this painting





The Herculaneum Women - discovering these statues led to finding Herculaneum in Italy near Pompeii.





Statue of a girl - I can't imagine chiseling marble to make the dress drape



aus der Zeit um 1700

Ein großer Porzellan-Topf, der in der Zeit um 1700 in China hergestellt wurde. Der Topf ist mit einem zentralen Panel mit einer floralen Darstellung und einem dunklen, gemusterten Rand verziert. Der Deckel ist ebenfalls mit einer floralen Darstellung in Blau und Weiß verziert. Der Topf ist auf einem Glasständer ausgestellt.

Porzellan, China, 17. Jahrhundert, H. 100 cm, D. 40 cm, M. 10 kg, Nr. 1000

Porcelain jar in the Porcelain Collection of Augustus the Strong





Porcelain crucifix





Porcelain animals



Porcelain Collection. In the Historic Green Vault every wall surface was covered like this, making it hard to really see all the treasures.

Dresden 9/4

Greetings!

This morning we bought an all day ticket for the tram. We took it to Old Town. There was an open Cafe where we picked out pastry for breakfast. Steve thought that Frauenkirche was one stop back, so we took a tram one stop. Then we wandered around, before I made him get out the map again and discover we shouldn't have taken the tram back. Oh, well! They changed the time of service from 10 to 11, so we were early.

We went to the information center, bought 2-day tickets for museums (one ticket is less than individual museum tickets). We also looked at the pictures of Dresden after it was bombed in Feb. 1945. Most of Old Town was just rubble. All those beautiful buildings and their inhabitants and treasures destroyed!

By then it was time to go to the Lutheran Church service at Frauenkirche (Lady's Church). The choir sang 5 pieces of Bach's music - they were excellent. We could follow the liturgy and tried to sing the hymns, though they were unfamiliar tunes. We both took a few years of German so could pronounce most of the words and understand a few of them. The Epistle was Acts 9, when Saul/Paul was blinded on the way to Damascus - the sermon was based on it. The Gospel was Mark 7. We're guessing there were over 300 in attendance, and they participated.

We wandered a bit, trying to find Residenzschloss (Dresden Royal Palace). We bought timed tickets to the Green Vault. Then we found a restaurant with seating along the sidewalk and enjoyed wienersnitzel, mushrooms, and French fries. We people watched while we ate. We went back to the palace gift shop and looked at its merchandise, but didn't buy anything - we were wasting time until our timed entry.

The Green Vault, a famed, glittering baroque treasury collection was begun by Augustus the Strong in the early 1700s. Over the years it evolved into the royal family's extravagant trove of ivory, silver, and gold knickknacks, displayed in opulent rooms. It was damaged in the firebombing, and has been painstakingly restored. We had audioguides to help us understand some of the items. Items made of amber, ivory, gold-ruby glass, mother-of-pearl, coats of arms of copper and gold, and bronze are included. Saxony's Crown Jewels are there also. It was impressive!

We then wandered a bit, stopped in Katholische Hofkirche to see what the Catholic Church looked like. Since we were tired of walking and had an all day ticket, we found a tram, rode it to the end. At that point were community gardens - lots of small plots



filled with flowers and vegetables, also some small one room houses in the plots - I guess you could "be in the country" that way. We took a different tram back. We went to the same cafe as the morning to get ice cream, and also pastry for tomorrow morning. Then we took a different tram - according to the map it went near our hotel. But there is construction on one of the streets so it has been rerouted. A kind man pointed out the way we needed to walk. At each tram stop is a moving sign listing all the trams that stop there and how many minutes until the next tram - that, to me, is really nice to know!

We walked past stores, found a restaurant to eat at. We ordered from the section of "for a small hunger" - we got potato fins (a baked potato sliced cross-wise, all put together) in sour cream and a delicious salad - it had many green, yellow, and red peppers, plus lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, etc. We could again people watch as we ate. There are so many people on bicycles, very few with helmets - the land is flat (saw the same in Berlin), so easy to ride bikes. Many small children have a 3-wheel scooter. There were a number of balance bikes. You see bikes on the trams, on elevators, all over the place!

My photos from yesterday finally downloaded, so will send them today. But the photos from today haven't come from my phone to the laptop.

Have a fun holiday! It's a regular workday here.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Looking out on the bridge - tables go all of the way across!



Tables were filled with free food!

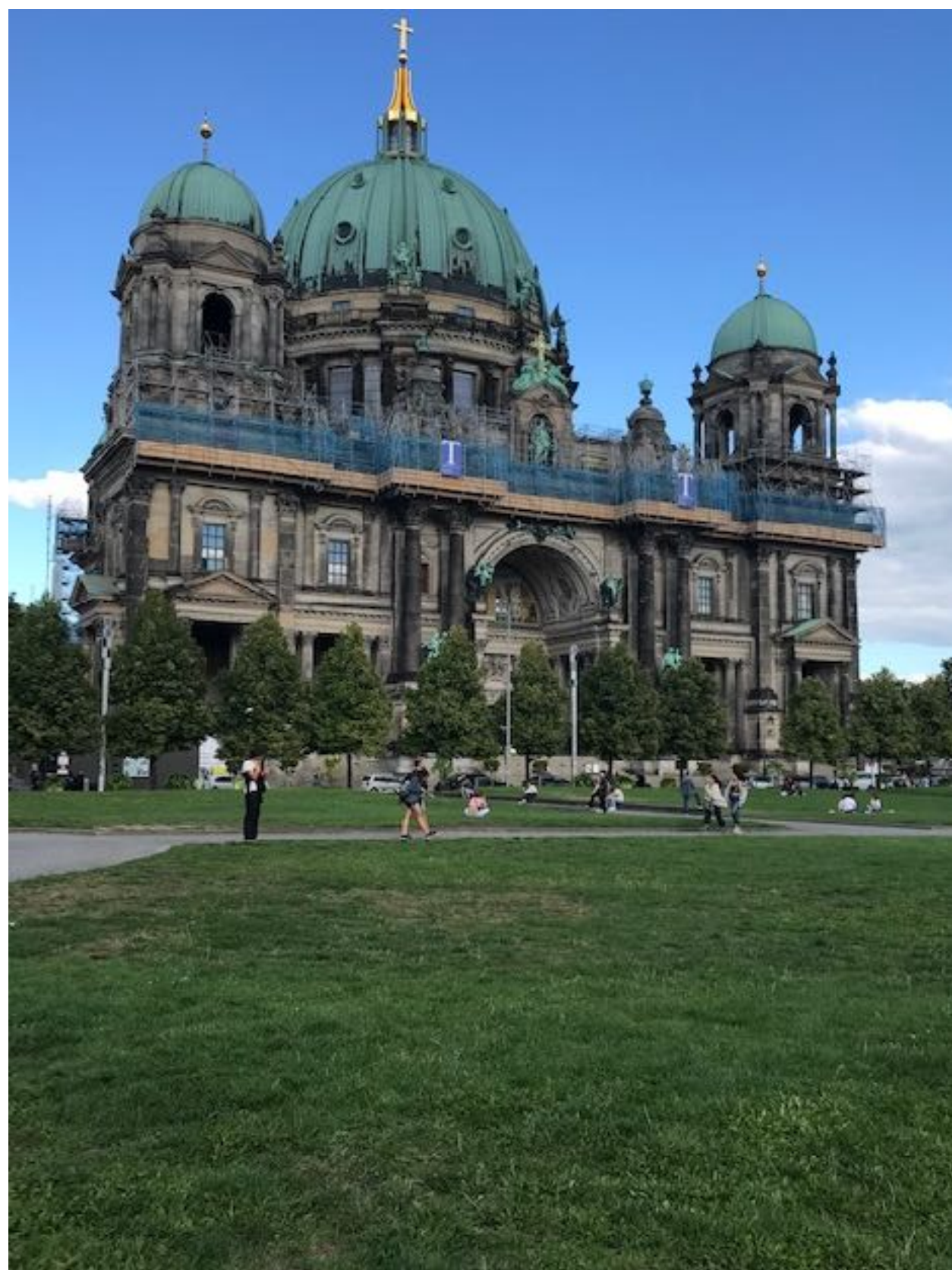




Small ballroom in palace - gorgeous!



Crown Gate - the gate's golden crown is topped by 4 golden eagles supporting a smaller crown - symbolizing Polish royalty since Augustus was also king of Poland





Berlin Cathedral with Lustgarten in foreground



Brandenburg Gate (from the side)



Before restoration





One of two porcelain stoves in Audience Room





## Throne Room



King's Bedroom - for ceremonial use only, he never slept here

Dresden 9/5

Happy Labor Day! (In America, not here!)

This morning we took the tram to Old Town again. We got off at "Synagogue", just across the river, and walked down to next to the Elbe River. When we got to the next bridge (which is the one the tram should have crossed), we walked back to the top. The bridge was closed, blocked off, we couldn't figure out why.

We walked to the Theaterplatz and then to the Zwinger. We went up on the balcony, looked down on the city's favorite fountain (I thought it was ugly - water was coming out of the shields of 2 soldiers), then walked down by it. But both of the museums we wanted to go to in there are closed on Mondays. So we walked on.

We went to the Residenzschloss (Royal Palace). We went to the Green Vault there yesterday - the vault under the floor was green, hence the name, none of the rooms we saw were green! (Did I say this yesterday?) Today we started at the New Green Vault. Again, it's not green. But here the treasures are in individual cases, not close together, and not surrounded by fancy walls, so I thought it much easier to look at.

There were clocks, drinking glasses, carved ivory (how did someone carve such intricate designs on ivory?), cherry pits carved with hundreds of faces on each one, crystal, a 145 piece golden coffee set, some items and their custom leather cases to protect them when traveling, the Dresden Green Diamond. There was an ornate, captivating ensemble from 1708 depicting the Grand Mogul Aurangzeb, who sits enthroned on his birthday awaiting his presents (including a white elephant). It's like a dollhouse with 132 figures and 32 gift items, all of pure gold glazed with enamel, all movable for the king's pleasure. I enjoyed it.

We walked outside to the corner, found a bakery where we shared an egg sandwich on a roll and a piece of plum cake - we were both plenty full.

We went back in the palace to the next floor up. Here we walked through the Turkish Chamber. Included were armor, swords, guns, saddles, a 60' ornamental silk tent from the 17th century. Next was the Royal Armory with armor, some of it displayed as jousting models and in dynamic fighting stances. The guard told us we had to go into the small ballroom - it was so gorgeous, lots of gold. There was a photo of the 3 candlesticks after they went through the fire before they were restored - so much had to be rebuilt!

Finally we reached the State Rooms section. First we went through rooms which are mostly hidden behind construction - these have not yet been restored since the bombing. We reached the Porcelain Room which is painted red with gold shelves but no porcelain - it's too fragile to be

displayed there. Then more rooms under construction, and finally the State Rooms. The Audience Room is the largest with 2 porcelain stoves. Here the people might be invited to visit with the king. As we went on, the rooms became more sumptuous. We went through 2 antechambers before reaching the Throne Room. You needed special invitations to go this far. To the side was the King's Bedroom. You had to be really special to be invited in there, very few people were allowed in. The bed was for show, the king never slept there. All of the rooms were furnished with impressive furniture, wall coverings, window coverings, gold paint, all to show how great the king was!

We had looked out the windows of the Audience Room, down on the bridge. Colorful tables were set up, going lengthwise across the bridge. We asked a guard what was going on, and he didn't know. But he asked someone who said there was a free food festival going on. So when we finished the museums, we walked out that way. Each table had several sponsors (groups - we saw one from the Evangelical Lutheran Church) and stores, restaurants, etc.) who had set out food for one to help themselves - most were finger foods, but I saw several pasta salads - they provided plates and forks. So we ate our way across the bridge, stopping to grab a bite of this and a bite of that. Then we continued back to the other side, eating more, picking up bread for breakfast tomorrow. We were both stuffed! And it was all free! There were musical groups singing at various places on the bridge and also a stage at one end. That's why the bridge was closed to traffic today (bikes and walkers were still allowed). The State Rooms reminded us of the State Rooms in Vienna we saw in the spring.

We were tired by then, so walked back to the tram, took it to about a half mile from our hotel and walked back. Yesterday we walked over 4.5 miles, today it was over 5.6 miles. Do my feet and legs hurt??? My doctor, at my physical on Tuesday before we left, said I needed to walk more. Well, I sure am!!!

A bit of history: On Feb. 13, 1945, during the final months of World War II, American and British bomber crew firebombed Dresden to near ruin. More than 3,500 tons of explosives decimated the city. More than 25,000 people were killed in just one night, and 75% of the historical center was destroyed. Reconstruction under the communists was lackluster. But after



the Berlin Wall fell and Germany was reunited, new funding became available to rebuild.

Augustus the Strong (1670 -1733) was the prince elector of Saxony and also King Augustus II of Poland. His son's wedding in 1719 to the daughter of the king of Vienna was a 40 day party in Dresden. The State Rooms were made more magnificent for this party. It is his treasures that are in the Green Vaults, wonder where he got all the money for his pricey treasures? Oh, Saxony was full of silver mines, so that gave him money.

The laptop and wifi aren't working together - some of you just received the Berlin Zoo photos I sent 24 hours ago. It does not want to send my e-mails, so I'm not sure when you will receive them. I do appreciate the e-mails from some of you, responding with comments and questions. E-mails from you come, but outgoing ones don't always leave! Photos aren't cooperating, so don't know when you'll get them.

Hope your day is good.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve

Dresden to Wittenberg 9/6

Greetings from SchwarzerBaer (Black Bear) Hotel!

This morning we packed up, left our suitcases behind the reception counter, and caught a tram into the Old Town. We walked over to Zwinger. Zwinger refers to the no-man's land moat between the outer and inner city walls. As the city expanded, the pavilions and galleries were built there. We first went to the Old Masters Gallery. There were many famous painters featured. One room had altar paintings - wonder what happened to the churches from which they were taken?

We ate lunch in the cafe - split a sandwich and a strawberry torte. Then we went to the lower level which was marble statues.

We walked to another section of the Zwinger to see Augustus' Porcelain Collection. It included animals which were about 16" tall. We finished just in time to go outside to hear the Glockenspiel. It has 40 bells made of Meissen porcelain - we were at the right

time for the 3 minute melody. We could see the bells vibrating when they were struck. They have a prettier sound than brass bells.

We took the tram back to our hotel and got our suitcases. Because of construction, the tram we planned to take had been rerouted. We took a different one, knowing we had to change tram lines. When we got to that stop, a bus had stopped in front of a tram which blocked it (trams and buses have the same stops). A medic pulled up in front of the bus, not sure what was going on. The tram driver told us to go to a different stop and get the tram there and it would be rerouted. We got that tram, but by the time it came, the bus was gone so tram traffic could move. Anyway, we got to the train station.

We got in line for a train ticket. The clerk said we could make the train which left in 6 minutes, since it was on this level of the train station. So we quickly hurried and got on. The train left late. I found nice seats, unfortunately they were in the first class and we had a second class ticket, so we had to move. They were nice while we had them! We ended up in the section for bikes, wheelchairs, and strollers - there were 4 bikes on before we got off. The train went for several stops, then, to me, it seemed like it went back the way it came - guess it transferred to a different rail.

We got off in Leipzig to change trains. We had 25 minutes between trains, so got a bratwurst to eat on the train. Wittenberg was 30 minutes away. We got off the train, carried our suitcases down the steps, walked towards the exit, up the steps to the street. Steve checked gps for directions, discovered we could take a local train around town to this hotel. So we carried our suitcases down (26 steps), under the tracks, back up to the platform.

That train left us at a park (on street level), walked through the park, up a block, then past about 4 businesses and we were at the hotel. We got the last room (Steve had e-mailed for a reservation yesterday. He had somehow not planned a hotel for tonight.)

We dropped our luggage in the room, then wandered down the street to Castle Church. We found where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in 1517- but the door was destroyed by fire in 1760. We continued walking around the block, through the town square, and back down the street to an ice cream store. One of the flavors was Paw Patrol, colored blue with small candies on top - thought of our granddaughter who likes Paw Patrol. We each had a cone, then came back to the hotel. So, only 5.1+ miles of walking today! My feet don't feel quite as bad today since we had a couple of hours of sitting on the trains.

Yesterday was sunny and about 75. Today it was sunny in the morning, cloudy in the afternoon, raining lightly as we got to the Dresden train station. Then it turned sunny again, about 72.

Sleep well! Stay healthy!

God bless you.

Lynne and Steve



Steve at door to Castle Church - the 95 Theses of Luther are written on the door.





Castle Church. "Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott" is written around the tower



Bronze memorial for Martin Luther



The nave of Castle Church



Antependium embroidered by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, 2016 - goes on the front of the altar on Reformation Day and Pentecost



Close up with the work so you can see the petit point she did

Wittenberg 9/7

Greetings from Hotel Brauhaus!

This morning we ate the hotel breakfast, packed up, left our suitcases in their luggage room. We walked down the street to the Information, looked around there.

Then we went across the street to Castle Church. We went in, paid the admission, then wandered around the church. We saw the tomb of Martin Luther and the one of Philipp Melanchthon - both are about half the length of our caskets - I didn't think they were that short! We looked at the rest of the church, then at the cultural-historical tour.



From there we wandered down the next street, then took a turn away from the historical center into more of the town of Wittenberg (which means "white mount"). There was a lower elementary school class walking down the street in front of us - on a class trip, I guess. We headed back to the town square - today there was an event for seniors there. We looked at the booths, then went towards the Town Church to the Chapel next to it.

There was an English service at noon in the Chapel. We joined 13 others, sang "A Mighty Fortress", short sermon, prayer - the singing was excellent - it really echoed in the chapel! From there we went to the Town Church (St. Mary). It is the Mother Church of the Reformation and an UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is where Luther preached most often, the diivine service was first held in German with the congregation singing hymns and receiving both parts of the Lord's Supper, thus the Mother Church of the Reformation.

There are many paintings by Lucas Cranach Junior and Senior - he included the early big-name Protestants in the paintings. The baptismal font has a tube extending from the basin directly down toward the ground - this allowed water, after having washed away sin, to be drained directly into the earth and thus to hell. "A Mighty Fortress" was first sung here.

We then went into the courtyard of the hotel to the Beergarten for lunch. We split boiled beef in horseradish sauce, potatoes and beetroot salad - delicious! We retrieved our suitcases and came back to this hotel. (Both hotels are over 500 years old, Martin Luther drank beer at both.) It's 3 stories of carrying our suitcases up plus over 100 steps to our room. (The other hotel had an elevator, none here!). We overlook the courtyard, so it will be noisy! It appears that his hotel was cobbled together from a few buildings. On our floor the numbers got from 21-30, then 301-306, with some other numbers stuck in - we go through 5 doors in the halls to our room. We rested for a few minutes.

We walked down the street, eventually arriving at Lutherhaus. Luther's former home has been converted into a museum displaying original paintings, manuscripts, and other Luther items. The only thing that may have been original to Luther is a room where he may have talked with his students. Luther made many modifications to the building (a former monastery) and then it became student rooms and has been further changed. His wife Katharina von Bora, a former nun, had to make ends meet, so she farmed, had a fish pond made and stocked, brewed beer, bred cattle, and more. Many students and friends lived with them, she was very thrifty so that Luther was the richest man in town when he died.

From there we went to the Phillip Melanchthon house. It was very little changed since the university gave him the house to induce him to stay at the university. I found it easier to understand the use of the rooms. Phillip and Luther were close friends.

We walked back on a different street, found the square almost empty from the festival.  
We're relaxing in our room.

Later: We went out for supper, finally decided on a Donner, then went back to the ice cream store for another cone.

It was sunny, about 76.

Hope your day is good.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Wittenberg town square



St. Mary's (town) Church and chapel (on left)



St. Mary's Church interior



Baptismal font. The center tube extends from the basin directly down toward the ground - this allowed water, after having washed away sin, to be drained directly into the earth and thus to hell. The devils on the 4 legs are trying to keep the child from being saved through baptism.





Altarpiece by Cranach



How to get the laundry to the upper floors! Reminds me of Amsterdam and how they got large items upstairs



Lynne's birthday lunch: boiled beef in horseradish sauce, potatoes and beetroot salad



Town square with St. Mary's Church towers in back of houses.



Luther's house, formerly a monastery



Katharina von Bora Luther and Lynne



Where Martin Luther held "Table Talks"

Wittenberg to Leipzig 9/8c

Greetings from Hotel One in Leipzig!

We awoke to rain this morning. We walked the 100+ steps and the 3 stories down to the breakfast room - another nice spread of food - scrambled eggs and hard boiled eggs, slices of cheese, slices of meat, meatballs, sausage, fruit, yogurt, rolls, bread, tomatoes, mozzarella balls, red, yellow peppers, cucumbers, lots more.

We climbed back up the 3 stories and walked the 100+ steps to our room. Steve tried to change our plane home - we are to land at Dulles but would rather land at BWI where we left from. The clerk on the phone couldn't fix it. We packed up, walked the 100+ steps, checked out, down the 3 stories. The gal asked us where we were going, allowed us to go through the breakfast room and out the back door to save us a few steps in the rain. We got wet walking to the train station. There we waited almost an hour - had missed the earlier train by about 8 minutes. Fortunately I had a rain poncho from our trip to the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) Convention last year - it kept me mostly dry. We rode to the main Wittenberg train station, about 5 minutes away.



We found the elevators and went down under the tracks, up the elevator to the ticket office, back down the elevator to go under the tracks, back up the elevator to the right train platform - when you have to carry your suitcases up and down steps it's really nice to use elevators instead! Fortunately the train was delayed for 10 minutes so we didn't miss it. We took the slow train (stopped at every town) to Leipzig.

We wandered through the train station, looking for something to eat (it was 1:30 by then). We found an Aldi in there! I got a couple of kinds of cookies for a late night snack. There was another grocery store in the train station also! The only other grocery store we have seen in 8 days was while we were waiting for a tram in Dresden. We've been spending most of our time in the old sections of the cities where there are no grocery stores! We found a place that sold pastries and we each had one for lunch (not a very healthy meal!).

We then dragged our suitcases down a few streets to this hotel. It was 2:15 and we couldn't check in until 3, so we left our suitcases at the front desk and walked catty corner across the street to St. Nicholas Church. It is Leipzig's oldest church (1165). It played a pivotal role in recent German history - in the 1980s prayer meetings held here every Monday gradually became a forum for those deeply dissatisfied with the communist status quo. It became a major staging ground for the Peaceful Revolution that would ultimately topple the regime.

You had to pay 2 euros to have permission to take photos inside, so we have no inside photos. The pillars are pastel pink and the walls and ceiling are pastel green. The chancel is long and about a third the width of the nave - so people sitting on the sides of the church cannot see the altar. There are 2 balconies all the way around the nave.

By then it was 3 o'clock and we could check in. We are on the fourth floor and can see the church from our window. We settled in and rested for a while. It poured for a few minutes, then turned sunny! It was about 75 degrees.

Then we walked past the Rathaus (Old Town Hall) to St. Thomas Church. Outside there are statues of Felix Mendelssohn and Johann Sebastian Bach. When we went in the church the organist was practicing, so we were able to hear the organ. We walked around, read about the church. Martin Luther introduced Leipzig to Protestantism, and Johann Sebastian Bach conducted the boys' choir. The church may date to 1212. The roof of the church has an unusually steep incline of 63 degrees and is 7 stories high (one of the steepest church roofs in Europe). While Bach was the 17th Thomaskantor for 27 years, he wrote the major portion of his cantatas for the Sundays and festivals of the Church Year. He also wrote the Magnificat, the Passions, the Christmas Oratorio, and the Mass in B Minor while there. He had 7 children with his first wife and 13 more with his second wife, only 10 of them lived to adulthood. We saw the baptismal font where 11 of his children were baptized. His grave is in the floor of the chancel.

We went looking for a cafe recommended by Rick Steves (we use his guidebooks for our travels), finally found it - it's under construction - so we looked elsewhere for a place to eat. After wandering a bit, we found Augustiner au Markt. Because of the many people who smoke outside, we ate inside. We had rostbratel (grilled steak marinated in Augustiner Edelstoff Bier with melted and roasted onions on fried spuds) along with an Augustiner beer. It was delicious! The waiter poured the beer in 2 glasses and gave us 2 plates since he knew we were sharing the meal - I'm still full! Sometimes we both eat off the same plate (when we don't get a second one) and usually drink from the same glass.

We wandered around on our way back to the hotel, past the university, looking for a bakery, finally found one we had passed on our way to St. Thomas Church.

Dogs are everywhere - on the trams, trains, in restaurants (there were 2 under the tables near us). We've only heard one dog bark in the last 8 days! The dogs are so well behaved!

Thank you for the birthday wishes. I had a good day!

Hope you have a good day.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve

Leipzig 9/9b

Greetings!

We're resting in the hotel so will take advantage of the time to start writing to you. Also, it's a good time to be in the hotel. We had a sunny day until about a half hour ago - suddenly it was raining, 2 lightning bolts with thunder. Rain has quit for the moment but the clouds are dark and no blue sky in sight.

I got my photos for the last 2 days to work, so hopefully you have received them. Sometimes they cooperate and sometimes I can't get them to download.

We found a cafe which serves breakfast and ate there. When we came to the Square, we could see why it was called "Market Square" - it was full of market stands, many vegetable markets, cheese, bakery items, meat (the sellers don't wear gloves, just pick up the item with their bare hands and hand it to you - not at all sanitary according to American standards!), flowers, plants. It was interesting to see all the items for sale. Many people had brought their cloth bags to take groceries home. We found a metal

plaque on the ground of the square saying that in early Middle Ages 2 roads crossed here and there was a market - one of the roads was a main trading route.

Then we walked to the Bach Museum which is across the street from St. Thomas Church. The boarding school in which Bach lived with the St. Thomas boy choir (he was their director) was demolished but the house across the street from that building was a close friend's home and the museum is in the Bose home.

After observing a bust of Luther, we went upstairs by elevator (we've become good at finding them - my legs don't like steps - I've fallen down them and especially don't like when they are 3 stories straight up) to a display of the family tree which makes it clear that Bach came from a very musical family. There's an iron chest from his household. There's an actual organ console which Bach played. The orchestra exhibit explains Baroque music by letting you press buttons to isolate the different instruments and sounds. There are also actual Baroque instruments on exhibit. Back downstairs is the Treasury where original manuscripts written by Bach are on exhibit. The audioguide in English and most of the exhibits were in English so we could understand what it was about.

Bach was the leader of the boys' choir here from 1723-1750. While here he was remarkably prolific - for a time he even composed a new cantata every week. In just 5 years Bach composed some 150 cantatas, 2 great Passions, and numerous other sacred pieces for his choir to perform. He worked as the director of music for the city's four main churches. After he died in 1750 he was soon forgotten. In 1829 Mendelssohn conducted and performed the St. Matthew Passion. It was an instant hit and sparked a newfound appreciation for Bach's music.

We then each had a pastry. We walked into a Passage again - Rick Steves had said it was the oldest passage in the city - we had missed the "sound fountain", a bronze bowl of water which, if rubbed just right with dampened hands, produce a loud ringing - I guess we didn't rub it right because it did not ring.

Later: We went to St. Thomas Church for the Motet the Thomas Boy Choir sang. We arrived 30 minutes early and the church was already a third filled. We had been told that the best seats were facing each other by the pulpit so I found seats for us there. The church had at least 400 or more people when the service began. (There is a motet sung every Friday night and Saturday morning.) First the 86 boys processed to the front of the church. Then the organ played a piece by Johann Sebastian Bach. The boys sang the Psalm by Hans Leo Hassler. There was a short liturgy sung by the cantor (director) and the choir. The choir sang a couple of pieces, one by Jan Sandstrom and the other by Johannes Brahms. The pastor gave a sermon - since my German is very limited, I don't know what he said. The congregation sang 3 verses of a hymn, the choir sang 2 of them. The choir sang the Magnificat with one section singing, then the other. We prayed the Lord's Prayer. The boys sang the evening hymn by Moritz Hauptmann. The postlude was by Felix Mendelssohn. The choir was excellent.

We walked around, looking for a place to eat supper. A band was playing mostly old American tunes (1940-1950s) in the square. We ate at the Alt Rathaus, sitting outside to enjoy the band music. We had calf liver and mashed potatoes - we asked that the liver not be cooked too long and the cook did a good job.

We noticed that there are no electric scooters here. Most of the bikes are not electric. There are lots of bikes!

After 8 days of walking over 11,000 steps (3 of them over 13,500!), we only made 8,500 steps - Steve said we need to take another walk now!

Have a good weekend!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



St. Nicholas Church





Alt Rathaus (old town hall)



St. Thomas Church



Chancel of St. Thomas Church, Bach's grave in foreground



Interior of St. Thomas Church



Johann Sebastian Bach outside St. Thomas Church





Our meal of grilled steak marinated in Augustiner Edelstoff Bier with melted and roasted onions on fried potatoes with Augustiner beer



Markets on Market Square





Bach's family - his first wife is on the left top with their children below, second wife on the right top with their children below, colored ones are musicians



Iron chest belonging to the Bach family



Pretty building



Band on Market Square



Supper: calf liver and potatoes

Leipzig to Erfurt 9/10d

Greetings from Gastehaus Nicolai (Nicholas Guesthouse)!

11:30 a.m.

Last night we watched our church's last Sunday service ([holycrosstowson.org](http://holycrosstowson.org)) since we finally had a good wifi connection.

This morning we packed up, checked out, walked to the train station. Steve bought tickets for Erfurt. We went to a Lukas in the train station to buy pastries for breakfast. We found a couple of seats to sit on, ate there. We then went back up to the train platform, and our train was waiting for us.

It stopped at every town and burg along the way, so took more than an hour and a half to Erfurt. I stayed at the train station and Steve walked to Enterprise and rented a small white car. He picked me up and drove us to Augustiner-kloster where he thought he had made reservations. Unfortunately the reservations are for 2023! They had one room available for tonight only. We will cancel the other reservations! We couldn't figure out where we were to go, so Steve got the car and the clerk walked me to here



and showed me how to use the key to open the gate for the car and how to get the post to lie down so he could park. By the time he had the car parked, it started to rain.

We left our luggage in the room (after a maid showed me which key to use to get it - it's a ground floor room with the door to the outside), then walked toward town, looking for something to eat. The first place we found was Cafe Laurent, so had crepes with tomatoes, walnuts, ham, cheese in them, with a salad and wine. Delicious! By the time we left the sun was shining. It was about 72.

Hi!

5:15 p.m.

Martin Luther came to Erfurt in 1501 to enroll at the university, after graduating he pursued a doctorate in law. But during a close call with a lightning storm, he promised if he lived, he would become a monk. On July 17, 1505, he knocked on the door of the Augustinian monastery (Augustinerkloster) and declared he wanted to become a monk. He lived there for several years, even after becoming a priest and a part-time professor, until he moved to Wittenberg in 1512.

We walked over to Augustiner-kloster to go into the church where Luther worshipped as a monk. We wanted to see the museum but it was already closed (at 2 p.m.!). We walked into Erfurt, going into Michael Church (across the street from where we ate lunch), down Michaelisstrasse (Michael Street), past the Old Synagogue, continued to the right, past the Town Hall and the Square. We continued to Domplatz (Cathedral Square). A fair was going on in the square, though all I saw were food booths.

We climbed the 71 steps to the Cathedral where Martin Luther was ordained as a priest. There is a bronze candelabra shaped like a man holding up a pair of candles, fighting off evil with light. The baptismal font is large - need to have several strong men to take the lid off! The main door of the Cathedral has statues of 12 men, 6 on each side. The side door has statues of 12 women - guess that's the women's door!

We also went in the Church of St. Severus, next to the Cathedral. It also has a bigger baptismal font. The 14th century sarcophagus of St. Severus is in the church. There are many gravestones on the floor. We looked out the door at Petersburg Citadel on the next hill, but didn't go there. We walked down the stairs and retraced our steps for a while. I needed a WC (Toiletten), went into a cafe. 4 steps down was the men's room, another 14 steps down to the women's room - guess they figure men can't make it down that far!

We went looking for the Merchants' Bridge. We crossed it without realizing it - there are shops, with houses above, on the bridge (similar idea to the bridge in Florence Italy which we crossed years ago). We went around the corner and saw that it really was a bridge with houses on it. We continued on to the Martin Luther statue near the church where Bach's parents were married. After resting beside an ugly fountain (it looked like ugly metal poles coming out like pick-up-sticks), we retraced our steps, but took the path next to Merchant's Bridge. We came to the "Er-Ford", "furt" means a shallow point

where ancient travelers could ford a river. "Er" means "dirty", the water was muddied when people would cross. There was a ramp going down to the Gera River and going up the other side of the river. We came back here to rest.

We are staying in the Nicholas Guesthouse. The Gera River flows past the back window of our room. The Nicholas Tower is across the street.

We passed many "Donner" shops - they are Turks who sell gyros.

Hello again! 8 p.m.

We went to the Augustinian church for their 6 p.m. prayer service. On Thursdays it's in English, so the booklet had German on one side, English on the other. We can say the sounds of the German words but don't know what they mean, unless the English is there. The service was centered on light - we each had a votive candle which the pastor lit at one point in the service. At the end they were placed on the floor before the altar. The pastor played a recorder to give us the melodies of the hymns.

Then we walked back downtown to find a restaurant. We went to At the Golden Wheel restaurant to the beer garden in the back. They have a self-service section, so we ordered our meal, brought it to our table, later bussed it, no waiter. We had bratwurst, pork, and a giant potato (double what I would serve for the two of us - it was huge!). The meats were served on rolls. It was very good. We just walked back to our room.

I walked more than 6.3 miles today, Steve walked 3,000 steps more than that, going to rent the car!

Have a good Lord's Day!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



The Augustinian Church where Martin Luther became a monk



The interior of the Augustinian Church toward the back





The Augustinian Church



Pretty buildings in downtown Erfurt



The 72 steps up to the Cathedral on the left and St. Severus on the right







The Cathedral of St. Mary altar



The baptistery at Cathedral





The organ in St. Severus Church



Lynne in front of the door with 12 women's statues



Cathedral Square - the fair is on the left





Steve in front of the Martin Luther Statue



The Er Ford (low place to ford the river) in Erfurt. The houses are on the bridge over the river.





A bratwurst and a potato (under all that sour cream) in the Beer Garden



The Stille where we started the church service underground.



The pastor as he preaches in the churchyard, second stop in church service





Inside the church to finish the service with communion



Looking up at Wartburg Castle



The knights' bath



## Wartburg Castle

Erfurt to Muggendorf 9/11b

Greetings from the Golden Stern (Star)!

This morning we awoke to clouds. We walked to the breakfast room in the Augustinian complex. There were plenty of choices for food. We walked back the block to our room, packed up, put our suitcases, etc., in the car.

We walked back to the church - today was a special day, so the service began in the Stille (Silent Place). About 287 people were smothered when bombs fell on their hiding place underground in World War II. I'm guessing today is an anniversary of that day. After the beginning liturgy, a Bible reading, and Psalm 46, a short sermon from the pastor, as the people sang, we went up and out to the yard on the side of the church. There is a concrete step jutting out of the church and the pastor climbed a ladder to stand on that step. There was a reading about Moses, a sermon, a hymn. Then we went into the church and sat in the Choir (in front of the altar). Another reading (all the readings were done by lay people), the Soul 1990 Creed, prayers, and communion followed. All 40 of us stood around the altar, 2 lay people brought the bread (wafers), and the pastor brought the wine in a glass pitcher. We had each picked up a silver colored glass (about the size of a large shot glass) into which he poured the wine. We sang a hymn, had the Blessing, and then sat for the organ postlude.

Afterwards there was coffee and cake. In the Cloister, we chatted with some of the parishioners - the lady who spoke with me was 92, remembered the bombs falling in WW II, spoke excellent English. When we came out it was pouring! We decided to not join the tour - it was in German and it was outside in the pouring rain, so we didn't see the room where Martin Luther studied.

Steve walked back to the car while I waited in Reception. As he walked the rain stopped. We followed the gps (really appreciate all the work that went into figuring that out) to Wartburg Castle. The castle was built around 1070. It has been renovated numerous times since then. The castle is unique among German castles because its history is marked by peaceful events, not the usual bloodshed and battle. This is where Martin Luther translated the Bible into German so the commoners could read it. The castle ranks as one of the best preserved and beautiful secular buildings of the late Romanesque era this side of the Alps. It is a UNESCO site.

We climbed the steps (about 20 stories) to the castle. We waited while the cook cooked the bratwurst on the grill - the 4 college-age guys in front of us had ordered 16 brats - and he had run out before he finished their order so we had to wait for more to be

grilled. They came on a roll with mustard, onions (cut into 1/8" pieces and fried crisp), and sauerkraut on them - very difficult to eat with the sauerkraut and onions falling off! We ordered coke, they charged \$6 for a glass of cola (not Coke), found out that \$3 was returned when you gave back the hard plastic glass.

After waiting for a guide who didn't show at tour time, Steve decided he wanted to get on the road, so we skipped the tour. We walked down the 20 stories and ramps to the car, then headed to Muggendorf (2 1/2 hours away). For a while we were on an Autobahn, so could drive 130 k/h. We occasionally could see castles on hills. Sometimes it was bright sun, other times clouds, other times heavy rain. We even saw a complete colorful rainbow which reached from one side to the other.

We arrived in Muggendorf about 5:30, searched for the hotel where we had a reservation. Finally found it and went into parking to find no cars there. Steve left me in the car (it was raining lightly) and tried to get in the hotel but it was completely empty. He went to the one next to it but it was also empty. He went across the street to the Golden Stern and got the last room. He drove us around the block, along the river to the parking for the hotel. A tour bus was unloading at the front door, so the elevator was jammed with old people. We walked up the 61 steps to our room - the last one at the top. We actually have a double room with a double bed in one room and 2 singles in the other.

We took a walk around the block, walked over the bridge over the river and back, and then went to the restaurant. We had sauerbraten, potato dumplings (looked like a round ball), and delicious red cabbage plus beer. Now we're in our room for the night.

It was about 74.

Have a good week!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve





Castle on the hill near Coburg



Road shot on the way to Muggendorf - for my brother-in-law



The other side of the rainbow - it went completely across the sky



Steve on bridge in Muggendorf



The Wunder Distillery Store



Our hotel in Muggendorf - our windows were the ones sticking out from the roof

Muggendorf to Nurnberg 9/12b

Greetings from Hotel Victoria!

This morning we ate the hotel breakfast (included little bratwursts), then packed and checked out. We put our suitcases, etc., in the car, then went across the street to the ATM since we were out of euros. Then we walked across the other street to the Wunder distillery shop. Steve's grandfather's mother was a Wunder and he was looking for a connection. Helga Wunder answered the door and spoke graciously with us - her English was very good. However, her husband's branch of Wunders is not Steve's branch.

We drove to the Rathaus which had the tourist information. The woman spoke little English. She didn't know anything about the Wunder Mill. Steve's family is related to the Wunder who built the Wunder Mill about 1500. We drove along the river, found a place where he thinks the mill was. We walked over to the river, took a photo of the building that may have had the mill. The last communication his family had with the Wunders at the mill was around 1980 when his mother and aunt visited the 2 old maiden Wunder sisters who lived at the mill.

Then we drove country roads over the hills (he said they were mountains but they weren't very high), past farmland which had been harvested, saw a machine cutting silage. The countryside is very green and looks rich. We eventually ended up in



Nurnberg. The Hotel Victoria (built in 1896) is just inside the Old City Wall - we can see it from our window. It has a round tower with a steeple on top - the 4 original square towers were changed to round when better cannons were invented and the round tower allowed the cannon balls to glance off. The tower I see from our window is Konigsturm (King's Gate Tower).

We dropped our suitcases in our room, then drove the car to the parking garage 200 meters away. We walked into the Craftsmen's Courtyard (actually built in 1971) to celebrate craftsmanship and to honor the 500th birthday of Nurnberg's favorite son, Albrecht Durer. Nurnberg didn't have abundant natural resources so its citizens made their living through trade and crafts (such as making scientific instruments, weapons, and armor). I found a souvenir shop and picked up a few Christmas gifts. We then went into a restaurant and had Franconian potato soup and a pretzel and red beer.

Konigstrasse (King Street) is a pedestrian street - most of the streets in Old Town within the city walls are pedestrian only. This is one of the primary entrances to Nurnberg and now is its main drag. 90% of Nurnberg was destroyed during World War II. Damaged buildings were repaired in the original Gothic style, but some structures were beyond repair. They were rebuilt in a modern style while preserving the medieval city's footprint.

Nurnberg is Bavaria's second city. It was one of Europe's leading cities around 1500, and its large Imperial castle marked it as a stronghold of the Holy Roman Empire. It is a city of the First Reich (Holy Roman Empire sites in the Old Town) and the Third Reich (Nazi-period sites outside the town center). Old Town is surrounded by a 3-mile-long wall and moat with a ring road beyond that. Other cities tore down their walls, but Nurnberg didn't.

We walked down the street, stopped in at Clara Church. This church looks old on the outside but is modern inside with few decorations - it turned me off. We saw the old cloister area out back. In the Middle Ages, Nurnberg had 9 monasteries like this one. After the Reformation, Nurnberg turned Lutheran, and most of its monasteries were converted into practical municipal buildings such as hospitals and homes for the poor. When the monasteries fell, so did Nurnberg's importance: the city was now Lutheran, but the emperors were still Catholic. They moved the Imperial Diet meetings from Nurnberg to Catholic-friendly Regensburg.

We passed the Old Granary. Medieval Nurnberg had 11 of these huge granaries to ensure that residents would have enough food in case of famine or siege. The grain was stored up above in the attic.

We went in the St. Lawrence Church. It was never a cathedral because Nurnberg never had a bishop. The 260' tall facade over the front door was completed in 1360. To me, the skill these people had centuries ago is amazing - and these statues are so old! Suspended over the altar is a sculptural Annunciation showing the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she'll be giving birth to the Messiah. A dove sits on Mary's head, and God the Father (looking like a powerful Holy Roman Emperor) looks down. To the left of the

altar is a frilly tabernacle tower to store the consecrated communion. It was encased in concrete to protect it from bombs in WW II, except for the top 22' - which was the only part destroyed when the church was hit. In the Middle Ages, artists were faceless artisans. But in the 1490s, the Renaissance was happening and the artists started putting themselves into their works. The man who created it put himself in as holding up the tabernacle on his shoulders. (Albrecht Durer actually signed his paintings, which was an incredible act at that time.) There are several side chapels, each a private chapel for a leading Nurnberg family.

We passed the Tower House. When it was built in 1200, there was no city wall, and locals had to defend their own homes (it's basically a one family castle). We wandered down to the river. Holy Ghost Hospital, which spans the river, was donated to Nurnberg in the 14th century by the city's richest resident - he funded this hospital to care for ill, disabled, and elderly Nurnbergers. The next bridge is the "Meat Bridge", (the meat sellers had booths nearby) considered the most high-tech bridge in Central Europe because it was a single span (like Venice's Rialto Bridge). All along the street are booths of flower sellers, fruit and vegetable sellers.

We next came to Hauptmarkt (Main Market Square). We went in Frauenkirche, located on the site of a former synagogue. Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV had built the square. He allowed his subjects to force out the Jews, 562 were killed, anti-Semitism predated the Nazis. There was a diorama of the Story of the Good Samaritan, told by Jesus. On the square is held Germany's largest Christmas market. Across the square is the gold Beautiful Fountain. Medieval tanneries, slaughter houses, and the hospital dumped their by-products into the river. This fountain brought clean drinking water into the square. It has pipes which you can pull down so water from the fountain splashes on the square.

We were getting tired by then and decided to not climb the hill to the Imperial Castle. We passed St. Sebald Church. We walked down Tanners' Lane which has Nurnberg's finest collection of half-tempered houses to survive the war. At the end we crossed over to see Chain Bridge, the oldest iron footbridge on the Continent but they were doing construction nearby so we couldn't cross it. We headed back toward Konigstrasse, stopping for ice cream cones on the way - mine was ginger (with pieces of ginger in it) and his was bourbon vanilla. We went back to St Lawrence Church for a service: 2 hymns, a sermon, prayers, organ postlude.

We continued back to the hotel and rested for a while. I started writing this e-mail - it often takes me a couple of hours to write it, plus prepare the photos. (The wifi here isn't good enough for photos tonight.)

We walked back down Konigstrasse, looking for a restaurant but it was closed. We chose a different one next to the Granary. It was very noisy in the cellar so we chose to eat outside. It took 45 minutes for our dinner to arrive - sauerbraten in gingerbread sauce, bread dumplings, and red cabbage. The dumplings were dense, similar to the potato dumplings last night. I liked last night's red cabbage better.

There was fog on the mountain when we got up this morning, but it was gone by 10 a.m. It was a beautiful sunny day, about 73.

Sleep well! Stay healthy!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve





The Town House built as a castle for one family before walls were built around Nurnberg. The chapel sticks out in front.



Holy Ghost Hospital, built over the river.



Interior of Our Lady Church



The Annunciation





Diorama of the Good Samaritan - note the priest and the Levi going past on the other side of the street - in Our Lady Church





Steve pouring water out of the Beautiful Fountain - on the Market Square

Nurnberg to Neuendettelsau 9/13b

Greetings from Dialog Hotel!

This morning we ate the hotel breakfast - one new thing was tiny red berries with a pit in them, the server said they were edible, but I chose not to eat them. Then we packed, checked out, dragged our suitcases to the parking garage and put them in the car.

We drove many city streets, a few blocks, turn, a few blocks, turn, etc., until we finally got to the Autobahn. Yes, Steve was driving 130+ k/h (+ going down the hills) on the one yesterday, and we were being left in the dust by those passing us on our left. We arrived in this town and followed the gps (it's wonderful!!!!) to our destination. We dropped our suitcases in our room (it was ready at 11 a.m.!).

We walked down the street to the communication office. There was no tour, which Steve was hoping for. William Lohe, in the 1800s, was interested in revitalizing the church. He was conservative. It was the time of the Prussian Oppression. He was concerned about the people moving to the U.S. who had no pastor. He sent pastors to the U.S. to care for these people.

We went across the street to a branch office of Mission Eine Welt (One World) where the lady in charge of sending missionaries around the world spoke with us and gave us a brief tour of the museum there. She had been on the coast of New Guinea. We went to the highlands. Eine Welt is committed to the Christian testimony in words and deeds and stand up for justice, peace, and the preservation of the creation.

We walked back to the church. The Diaconate students were having an opening church service for their first day of school. The Diaconate trains people for social ministry: nurses, teachers, social workers, etc. It is located here. Of course, the service was all in German, so we didn't understand much. I'm guessing there were at least 300 students in the service.

We ate a "picnic" lunch in our room, a roll, tomatoes given to me from a parishioner's garden on Sunday, a banana. I hand washed some clothes - we can't bring enough clothing for 3 weeks, so I've been hand washing our clothes many days. I did some counted cross stitch. I napped (didn't sleep well last night). So we have few steps today! A day of rest and relaxation.

We just came back from supper in the restaurant attached to the hotel. Tonight we decided to be adventurous and take our chance on what the German menu said - usually we have an English one - and we ended up with sauerbraten, potato dumplings,

and red cabbage for the third night in a row! Should have stuck to our first choice, wiener schntizel! I thought the dumpling was dense, Steve did not.

It was sunny in Nurnberg. It was raining lightly before the church service. It has been overcast all day, occasional rain, about 68. It is cold in our room, maybe 65. The last hotel apologized for how warm the rooms were (actually to me it was comfortable), this one is cold but no heat on in the room.

I write "Nurnberg" because that is the way the Germans spell it, with an umlaut (2 dots) over the "u". In the U.S. we spell it Nuremberg.

Please continue to pray for safe travel and good health for us.

We appreciate your e-mails, your comments and thoughts.

Hope your day was good!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve

Neuendettelsau to Stammham 9/14a

Happy Holy Cross Day!

Lutherans celebrate Holy Cross Day to celebrate the cross as the sign of salvation. Our Holy Cross Church celebrates it because it is our church's name.

It rained heavily overnight. It was raining when we got up. We went to the hotel breakfast. Our room was the only one with a balcony - you go through the bathroom to get to the door to the balcony! Then we packed and checked-out. The receptionist said I could have an umbrella that was in the umbrella stand - guess no one had claimed it. I had been planning to buy one, I knew if I bought one the rain would stop!

We started driving, following many country roads. It is pretty country! The fields have been mostly harvested. We passed 2 walled villages on our way - they were in the middle of nowhere, but guess the villagers wanted protection from the marauders coming through. We drove to Limesum to see the Ruffenhofen Roman Park. During Emperor Trajan's rule a line (Lime in German) of walls was built as a frontier border of the Roman Empire (160-27 A.D.) It covered 3 continents, was over 5000 km long. The fort here was built near, but not close to the wall.

With modern scientific equipment (including aerial photography, excavations, laser scanning) the area was found where the fort was. Since this is a UNESCO site, not much excavation is being done. Using plants, the area of the fort is shown. Trees grow along the wall of the fort. The area inside has plants growing. Where there were buildings that area is mowed at the beginning of the growing season and not again. Where there were no buildings (walkways, parade ground, area between buildings) is mowed several times a year so you can see where the buildings were. There are signs explaining what was where. It was an interesting concept which worked well without disturbing the earth.

We walked around the grounds, reading the signs (there were signs about the trees growing and what they were used for), figuring out what had happened there. Outside the fort were 4 rows of v-shaped trenches 4 m deep - a significant barrier! 5 guard towers were on each side of the fort so the guards could keep an eye on what was happening. The fort was to secure the fertile ground and farms, not expected to be used in battle. There were about 500 soldiers living at the fort at any time. Most of the soldiers received training in another profession which they could use when their 25 years of service were finished, which meant that they were a Roman citizen. At that point they could have a legal marriage. (I guess many were married because their families lived in the vicus (village) nearby.)

While we were "in" the fort we saw a bird flying. It sometimes just hovered in the air, without moving its wings, other times hovered with wings flapping - it reminded us of a helicopter, but we've never seen a bird be able to do that. Don't know what kind of bird it was.

There was also a mini Kastell (fort) - it was 1/10 scale - so you could visualize what the fort looked like. We walked around the mini fort, then climbed the hill behind it to look over the entire area.

I carried my umbrella but it turned sunny and about 78 with a nice wind blowing.

We went in the museum building. We each had a blueberry muffin. I asked for a cola but she didn't have any. She did have a German favorite: cola-mix-limonade - it's rather tasty! We then toured the inside of the museum. It had many interesting exhibits and many carved gem seals, the largest display of them we've ever seen. Rome brought the ability to write and read to Hesselberg (this area). Along the way through the museum there were Playmobile scenes of forts, ships, soldiers to keep the children interested (and sell more Playmobile, I guess!). It was a well done museum.

It was sunny, but we heard thunder twice, didn't see any rain clouds. As we drove from there we did encounter some rain, some wet roads, more rain, sun. When we drove through one village we could smell cows - didn't see any but guess they were somewhere nearby. We went to the hotel where we had reservations for tonight (with Orbitz) but it was closed. Steve pulled up a map on the laptop with nearby hotels and we ended up at Hotel Alex which had a room for us on the ground floor. We ate our



supper there in the restaurant - pork medallions with spatzle - very good. There was a pretty peach colored rose on each table.

Things I forgot to write previously - Tall bridges over deep valleys all had a name. There were many tall bridges (some might have been 6+ stories tall). - In Nurnberg we saw them making the ice cream cones on a grill when we got the cones. - The churches have a peg or hook on the back of the pews at each seat so you can hang your purse up.

It rained lightly when we got to the hotel, but is sunny now.

Hope your day was good!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



The Granary - food was stored in the attic in case of famine - in Nurnberg 9/12



Tower along the city wall of Nurnberg. Our hotel is the pink one behind the light post.  
9/12



Altar in church in Neuendettelsau - we liked the angels holding the candles! 9/13





I like to find a sunflower field each September. This one is in Ruffenhofen Roman Park. It was windy! 9/14





Bas relief of traders - the man on the left is writing down the bolts of cloth sold. The other 4 are tightening it down so it can be taken elsewhere - at Roman Park. It is from a casket in Augsburg.



Mini- Kastell (fort) at Ruffenhofen Roman Park. You can see the 4 trenches around the fort.



Overlooking the mini fort toward the fort area and the town beyond - at Ruffenhofen Roman Park





The countryside is pretty near Ruffenhofen Roman Park.





Model of the fort and village outside the fort with a painting of what it might have looked like. Inside the Limesmuseum.



Recreation of a wagon with a Roman soldier behind. Ruffenhofen Roman Park

Stammham to Augsburg 9/15a

Greetings from Jacob Hotel!

This morning we walked around the corner to a grocery store. The bakery was just inside the door and that's how far we went. We bought pastries for breakfast and ate them there. We walked back to our room, packed up, checked out and left.

We drove through the countryside and then on highways to Augsburg. We went the wrong way (gps gave wrong corner to turn at, turned one block too soon, so had to go around the block) once. We found the hotel and parked on their lot. It was too soon to check in so we left our suitcases in the car and left.

We walked a half block to Fuggherei. This is the oldest social housing project in the world, people have been living here since 1521! The requirements to live here: be a resident of Augsburg, be poor, be Catholic. For 0.88 euros a year and the agreement to pray 3 times a day (Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, one other prayer - much less than a poor person would have to pray at a monastery) one could live here. Rent is still 0.88 euros a year plus 0.88 euros to the priest! In return you had a place to live and were not forced to beg. According to the charter of the foundation, the Fuggerei is supposed to exist for all eternity.

We walked under the Building of the Administration where the 3 families, dependents of Fugger, administer the Fuggerei meet on the second floor. It was destroyed during World War II and rebuilt in 1950. A tower from down the street that was not damaged in the bombing was incorporated into the corner of the building. We went in St. Mark's Church. Before the fuggerei was connected to the public water supply system, residents had to use water pumps on the street - a pump which still works is at the corner of the church. There are signs on many of the buildings in German, English, and Italian.

We walked through a passageway to a park area. A bunker was built into the ground there. In 1944 Augsburg was bombed, 200 people survived in the air raid shelter - the only one killed was the Air Raid Warden. We went into the bunker where there were exhibits about the bombing and the results: almost 70% of the Fuggerei was destroyed. The buildings were rebuilt. It was an interesting exhibit.

We continued through the streets, reading the signs on the buildings, through the Museum of Everyday Life (showing what a house might look like today, including hook-ups for tv and wifi), the Museum of the Residents (photos of those who live here now, photo of their door if they didn't want to be photographed). We walked back to the street to go into the cafe there for lunch: stuffed noodles with shrimp (we didn't find any shrimp), with a large mixed salad and 2 pieces of bread. We went back to the Museum of History and Learning. It showed what a house looked like in the 1500s (no toilets - they had bath houses). The house next door was the flat of Franz Mozart, great-grandfather of Amadeus Mozart, who lived here for 13 years with his family, he was a master bricklayer but couldn't make a living doing that. It was a very interesting place.

There's an excellent article on Jacob Fugger on the internet. He was the 10th of 11 children. At age 14 he started investing. He conceived of Fuggerei and planned it. He was a banker. and also headed his family's business operations, which included an almost monopolistic hold on the European copper market. By the time he died, he was the richest man in the world, called Fugger the Rich. When he died in 1525, his personal wealth was equivalent to 2% of the GDP of Europe.

Carrying my umbrella didn't work: it rained! We walked back to the hotel, checked-in, and moved into our room. The window overlooks a tram line, hopefully it doesn't run all night! Then we started walking in the rain. It rained off and on for the rest of the day.

We passed the Rathaus (city hall) and found the Fugger house - it's still a private bank started by the Fuggers. Then we walked to St. Ann's Church. It had a display on Martin Luther. Luther walked 550 km in 12 days from Wittenberg to Augsburg in 1518. He stayed in the former Carmelite convent of St. Ann's when he was interrogated in Fugger City Palace (their home) by the Holy Roman Empire's representative about the issue of selling indulgences. He was supposed to be arrested. His friends spirited him out of the city through a secret door since the gates were all guarded. Augsburg



was one of the largest cities in Europe, 30,000 inhabitants, equal to Paris and London.

The Augsburg Confession is the primary confession of faith of the Lutheran Church and one of the most important documents of the Protestant Reformation. It was presented by a number of German rulers at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530. In 1537 Augsburg became Protestant.

Then we returned to our hotel to rest. It was sunny when we walked up the street, looking for a German restaurant (after all, we are in Germany!). We found Vietnamese street food, Asian, a Greek bakery, Turkish, etc., but nothing German. Maybe Dracula Bar was German, but the name turned us off. We finally found a bakery which had sandwiches, bought 2 sandwiches plus bakery items for breakfast. On our way back to our room, we stopped in the Greek bakery to buy baclava and another treat for dessert. We ate in our room.

Our hotel room has 3 beds. It also has a bathtub - the first one we've seen here. Also our beds are separated by a table, up until now we could sleep next to each other. The last 2 nights and tonight our room has had an outside shutter which pulls down.

Tomorrow we finally go to our reason for being in Germany now: the Passion Play in Oberammergau! We've had tickets for 4 years! It was postponed 2 years ago due to Covid.

Praying for you.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Interesting houses in Augsburg



Fugger House. It houses a private bank. It was the site for Martin Luther's debate about the 95 Theses with the representative from the Holy Roman Empire.





St. Moritz Church





Weaver's Guild House



St. Ann's Church





Jacob Fugger's burial plot in St. Ann's





Pulpit in St. Ann's - I liked the angel on top

Augsburg to Oberammergau 9/16

Greetings from Hotel Arnika!

We ate the bakery items we bought last night, packed up, and left. We drove the hour and 20 minutes here. We see windmill farms and solar panel fields. Farm tractors pull wagons on the highways. Cars rarely pass when there are passing zones on the two lane highways - I think their sight distance is too short with the winding roads. We drove through the town of Oberammergau - lots of little roads, occasionally only one lane wide.

We saw clouds over the Alps as we drove closer to Oberammergau. We arrived here to find out that check in wasn't until 1 p.m. and it was 10 a.m. We left the car at the hotel and walked down the half mile or so to town, some roads had no sidewalks.

Oberammergau is a small Bavarian town. In 1632 the Black Plague came to the town. The leaders of the community came together and made a vow to hold a Passion Play every ten years and from that time not a single person died from the disease. Except for 2 times, the play has been held about every 10 years. Because of Covid it was postponed 2 years.

We wandered around, trying to find the Playtheater. We wanted to hear the introduction to the play in English, but were too late. We stopped in the Lutheran Church - very, very plain. We found there is a paved path next to the stream which led back to our hotel. The stream is paved with flat stones, in a v-shaped channel - we were on the levee on one side, the other side also had a levee - it must flood at times.

We took a shuttle bus back to town, found a restaurant where we had a currywurst and potato salad for lunch. We went to a couple of souvenir shops, I got my magnets, a commemorative spoon (I collect them and the magnets, first spoon I've seen on this trip), and a wooden nativity and a cross necklace with the dove on it. I wanted to use the WC (toilet) before the show so we headed toward the theater. The line was horribly long, men were on one side, women on the other because we went through security, being patted down and our bags checked. Of course the men just walked through - I must have been in line for 25 minutes - there are so many more women than men attending. I went into the WC, a man was inside telling when toilets were available.

Steve signed up for these tickets the first week or so they were available in 2018. He had to change the hotel we were staying in to get the seating he wanted. Well, he told me they were good seats - he was right! First row against the stage! Unfortunately they were seats 6 and 7 so were towards the end and seeing what was in the middle didn't always work - we could see halfway into the center part but not the whole center. But they were great seats!

The show started at 1:30 for 2.5 hours. It started with the choir singing and a tableau of Adam and Eve being expelled from paradise. Then came the play, starting with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. There was much dialogue. The choir singing and an Old Testament tableau were interspersed between scenes. For example, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham and salvation by looking up to the bronze serpent in the wilderness were before Jesus' crucifixion. It was excellently done.

We took the shuttle bus back to the hotel (it was part of the hotel payment), checked in, then relaxed in our suite. We had a living room, bedroom, bathroom with 2 sinks, and balcony! I noticed a police car and medic in front of the hotel. A man was standing in a field across the street. Then I heard a helicopter coming down, watched it land in the field. Eventually the person was moved from the medic to the helicopter and flown away - don't know what happened. But there is no hospital here.

We went down for supper - had a choice of pork or fish or a vegan dish plus tomato soup and apple strudel, all included in the hotel bill. Breakfast is also included. But you had to pay for beer or wine. We took the shuttle back to the playhouse. After going through security we looked at the timeline of the play, interesting exhibit. When I was in line for the WC, I heard someone say, "LWML, Lutheran Women's Missionary League". I had my LWML rain poncho on. One lady was from North Dakota, the other from Texas, and both were active in LWML. The second part of the play was from 7 - 9:30. It was really good. We took the shuttle back to the hotel.

This morning we drove through a couple of sprinkles on the way, but most of the day was sunny with blue skies. About 3:15 it started to pour. The audience is in a building, the stage is under a roof but it is open over the back of the stage. Suddenly instead of 70 degree weather, it got cold. Since we were sitting in the front row, we got the full cold breeze. It rained on and off, was raining when we took the shuttle after supper and also when we came out of the play. We were both shivering. It probably is about 50 now.

Have a good weekend.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Road shot of the Alps





Another road shot of clouds on the Alps



View from the path along the stream in Oberammergau



Our hotel. Our balcony is just above the lamppost and our living room is in the 3 windows to the left of the balcony.



Our living room





Our bedroom. Windows to balcony



View from our balcony

Oberammergau to Rosshaupten, Bavaria 9/17c

Greetings from our apartment in a private home!

This morning we ate the hotel breakfast, then packed up and left in the rain.

We drove to Ettal Abbey, a Benedictine Abbey. There are about 13 monks working and praying. We looked at the exhibition Abbey of Ettal. Then we walked to the basilica. We were surprised so many people were there at 10 when it opened. With the dark clouds and rain it was very dark inside.

We then drove to Linderhof Castle, King Ludwig II's favorite castle - at least he spent the most time in that one. We bought a timed ticket for a tour - you can only go in with a tour. We plus 27 tour members from Virginia made up our English tour. The first floor was for the servants, now for the tour guides. We went to the second floor where he lived the last 8 years of his life. He admired King Louis XVI of France, so tried to make this castle a miniature of Versailles. It was the only one of his castles finished during his

lifetime. He was the only one to live there, everything was made for only one person. It is very ornate and overdone! It was built as a "royal villa" as a monument to his absolute power.

The western music room had a combined piano and harmonium, typical of the 19th century - he had it for Richard Wagner, his friend, in case he wanted to come and play it (he didn't come). A life-size peacock made of Sevres porcelain is beside it. The peacock was his favorite animal. Then we went through a "waiting room" which was for servants to wait until he called for them - there are 4 of them, one between each set of rooms - they are decorated also (though not as ornately as the main rooms.) The Audience chamber is next, with his desk between 2 fireplaces of Bardiglio marble - though they were not used because he had central heat in the palace. Everything was wood painted with gold so it was very opulent. The royal bedroom was the largest room of the palace - the canopy bed was 2 stories high. The dining room had a "magic table" - the table was on an elevator so it could appear with the 10 - 12 courses of his daily meals (25 or more courses on holidays). He always ate alone. A porcelain chandelier and a vase with an abundance of blossoms were both made by Meissner porcelain company were in that room. The eastern tapestry room also had a life-size peacock. The mirror room was designed to give the optic illusion of an endless row of rooms - he used the Versailles mirror room as his model.

From there in the rain we walked up and up the paths to the Moorish Kiosk. Ludwig II had a special preference for oriental architecture so purchased the kiosk which originally came from Zbio Palace in Bohemia. There is a Peacock Throne in it with 3 peacocks with their tails spread out beside it. We walked back to the cafe and had landjager (a piece of meat you can pick up in your fingers - I would think it's like beef jerky in that regard, but it is rectangular in shape and long like a hot dog - and a pretzel, he had coffee, I had hot chocolate (it's about 45 degrees).

We drove over a mountain pass. There's fresh snow on the tops of the mountains. We drove to Rosshaupten where we have an apartment in a private house - we're the only guests these 3 days. The house is over 100 years old. The tile stove for heating is about 80. It was nice to go in a warm place! We have a combination living/kitchen plus a bedroom. It's very pretty.

I started writing this e-mail. Steve checked on getting tickets for Ludwig's other castles. The ones for Neuschwanstein Castle are sold out until Oct. 4, so guess we won't see that unless they have some leftover tickets for the day. He did get tickets for Hohenschwangau Castle and the Museum of the Kings on Monday.

We drove to Fussen to go to Aldi's for some groceries for breakfasts and lunches. We then went to a restaurant in town for dinner. I sat at a table while he parked. The waiters weren't happy that I was alone at a table for 4 but I said he was parking. We ordered the Wiener schnitzel with raspberry sauce and French fries. Just before we got our order, they seated another couple at our table - they were from Hamburg Germany.

It was a busy restaurant! Food was delicious and filling - there were 2 schnitzels on the plate and plenty of fries.

It had turned sunny shortly after we arrived here, then cloudy, then sunny. It was raining again as we came back here. Tomorrow is supposed to be a couple of degrees centigrade warmer. I hope so!

Forgot to mention: in Augsburg the towels were blue, the rest of the hotels have had white towels. For the first time, in Oberammergau we had washcloths! European hotels don't believe in them! Also, as part of our ticket price for the Passion Play, we were given a book in English with all of the dialogue (or there was one in German), so we could follow the play since it was in German. The Passion Play more than lived up to our expectations. Also, occasionally there are piles of pumpkins along the side of the road, with a box on the honor system.

Have a good Lord's Day!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve





Ettal Abbey



Inside of basilica





Side altar with Jesus and the Apostles



Linderhof Castle gardens. How did we neglect to take a photo of the castle itself??? Maybe because it was raining and we were waiting for our time to go it. No photos inside.





View out the back of Linderhof Castle. That is water cascading down as waterfalls



Moorish Pavilion. I was wearing 3 jackets - it was about 45 degrees and raining.





The Peacock Throne in the Moorish Pavilion. Mad King Louie loved peacocks.





Fountain next to Linderhof Castle



Road shot - snow on the Alps



Premierlechsee - very green because it's from a glacier



The house where we are staying. Our living room is the windows on the left. I thought the geraniums were so pretty!





Our livingroom/kitchen - the stove in the right corner is over 80 years old. The house is over 100. The stove was warm!!! After 45 degrees outside, it felt good!



The restaurant in Füssen where we ate - forgot to take a photo of our food.

Greetings from high above Germany (I think that's where we are!)

It's noon in D.C.

This morning we walked over to the bakery and bought some baked goods for breakfast. We took them back to the hotel and ate there. Then we packed up, checked out, put our luggage in the car, left the car there, and walked into the Old Town. We went to the Cathedral, walked around in there. There was a school class learning about the cathedral - they had maps of the cathedral layout and were looking for certain items, they wandered independently around, came back to the nun who was the guide and she gave them something else to look for.

We walked around the cloister, looking at all the graves. Then we went to the museum. It was about how they restore the damaged pieces: paintings, sculptures, etc. Their patron saint is St. Afra, lived in the 300s. We went out to find the Roman Wall - but the wall we found looks much more modern. There were pieces of sculpture that probably were originally on the wall. Augsburg was on the Roman Road, so a Roman wall was here.

We walked along the road to the Schaezler Palace, a baroque palace, which is now an art gallery. On Tuesdays it is free! We walked through the 3 front rooms, then along the side through at least 10 rooms of various size. The last room was the ballroom which was full of gilt. We walked down the steps and back to the beginning - I had to lock my purse in a locker before I could go in the museum and the palace - it costs a euro which you get back when you take your items out of the locker.

We crossed the street and looked for a restaurant. We ate at "Picnic". We had goulash - it was full of pieces of beef, very good. We walked back to the car and headed to Munich Airport, about an hour away. We left our rental car there, then followed signs to Lufthansa to check in. No one was in line to go through security - never have gone through so fast before! We had to take a shuttle to our terminal. Down and up escalators to get where we were going, but eventually ended up at our gate.

Originally our flight was scheduled to stop in Iceland. Our flight was scheduled as a direct flight to D.C. for later, then the security check wasn't done so we were further delayed. But we eventually got on the plane, we're in the 5th row from the back on an Airbus 350. I have the camera down on my screen, so can see that we are now over the sea. It was interesting to see the land underneath as we went over Amsterdam.

It was sunny, about 55 in Augsburg.

1:30 or so D.C. time:

We were served a variety of drinks: beer, wine, coke, tomato or orange juice, water. Then our meal came: everyone got the vegan ravioli, salad of greens, roll, dessert (something like gingerbread on the bottom, raspberry jelly, a creme topping with slivers of chocolate on top), plus a brie cheese for a snack. Later we got a cheese sandwich with slices of zucchini and shredded carrots on it.

Thursday 7:45 a.m.

I had awoken at 3:45 a.m. on Wed., so was awake for over 24 hours. I didn't sleep on the plane, though tried to. We went through Customs at Dulles Airport - there must have been over 300 in line ahead of us, but eventually we made it. Our luggage was already on the carousel when we finished customs. We then walked outside to the Hotel Shuttle line, waited about 20 minutes until the Best Western shuttle came and took us to this hotel. The check-in took a while because she was long with the person ahead of us. We walked to our room, were in bed in 15 minutes. It took a while for me to fall asleep, then I woke up several times and had trouble falling asleep again. Hopefully I'll sleep better tonight in my bed! Time to go to breakfast!

Thursday 7:15 p.m.

We ate the hotel breakfast, then relaxed for a bit, packed, and checked out. Our son-in-law Greg picked us up and drove through the rain to our home. Steve picked up and sorted through our mail - we have a slot in our front door. I washed 2 loads of clothes and hung them outside to dry after the day turned nice. We bought me a new phone, went to the bank, grocery store, and library. I've gone through about half the mail (mostly junk mail).

Thank you for "traveling" with us, hope you learned some new things, and enjoyed some of the sights we saw. Thank you for your prayers for safe traveling and good health - God answered all of our prayers.

May God bless you richly.  
Lynne and Steve





Part of a brass door - God taking Eve out of Adam - at St. Afra Museum in the Cathedral



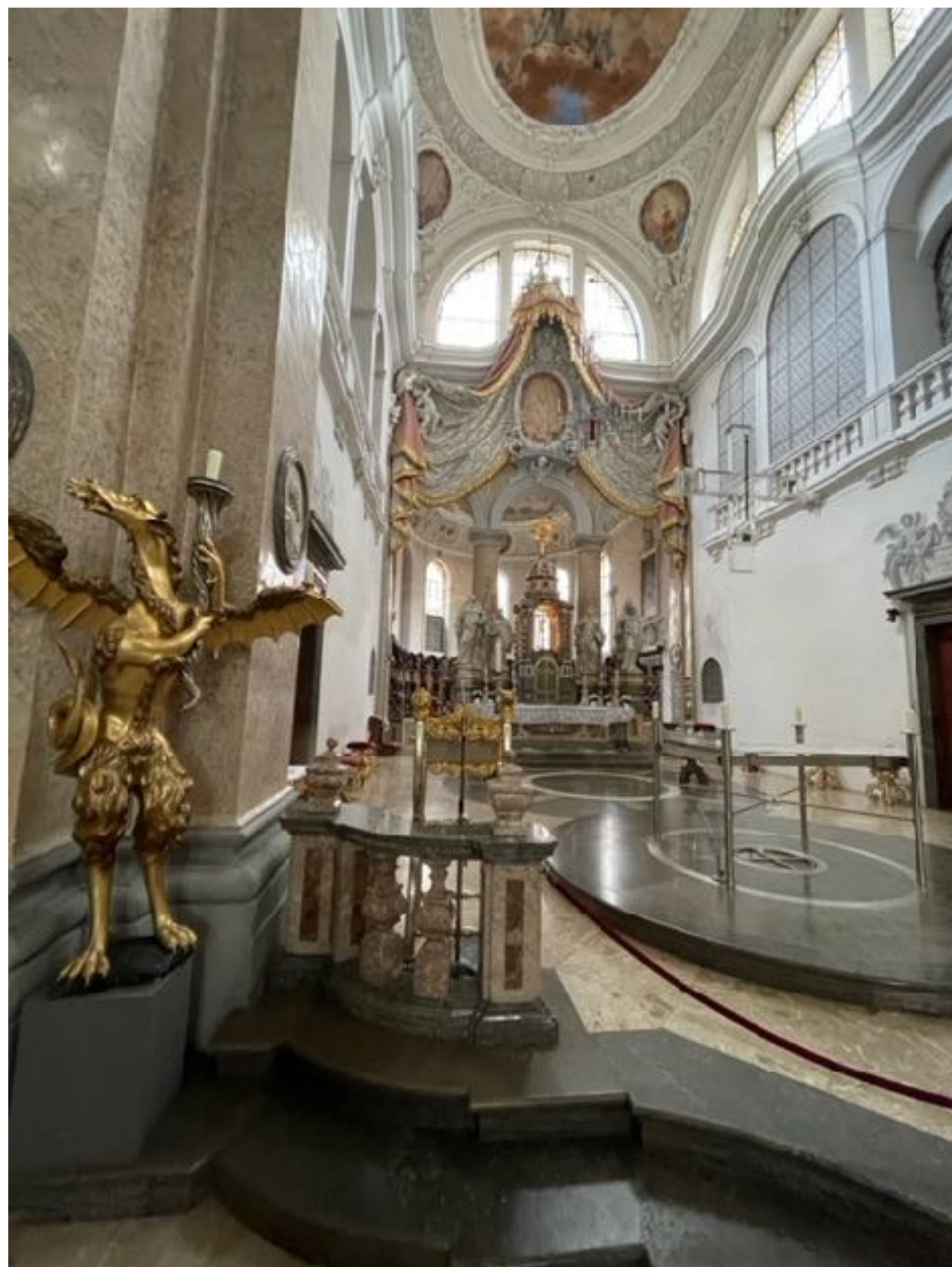


The ballroom of Schaezler Palace - he was a merchant, not royalty - the ballroom is widely regarded as the most artistically significant Rococo ballroom in Germany.



Goulash for lunch





I thought the candle holder in St. Mang Church in Fussen was interesting! 9/19



Elbigenalp - pretty town 9/20



Lech ski area



Yes, we got to the snow line! Skinebiett Lech/Zurs





**W**e drove through those snow sheds on our way down the mountain after going over the pass

1599 km    964 miles