

The Season's Highlights

Hi!

I will ask you the question I keep asking myself: How is it the end of December already?? I blinked, and Fall became Winter—the last couple months passing in a flash. I can't keep the smile from my face as I recall some of the highlights to share with you. God has been fulfilling promises he made to me when I first felt called to Germany a few years ago.

First Things First

I have my visa! I received my approval in May and was informed that it would take 12 weeks to get the physical visa, which would allow me to travel again. It took a whopping 24 weeks and many confusing emails to finally have it in hand. I was flooded with relief to receive that letter in the mail and pick up the card, allowing me to confidently book travel for work coming up in 2026.

Fall Highlights

I was so excited to get to have my parents visit in October! They spent a couple weeks here allowing me to introduce them to a lot of my community, show them around my neighborhood, and just spend good family time together. They also blessed me with several freezer meals and a few shelves that I wasn't quite confident enough to hang up by myself. While they visited I was also able to host church at my home! Something I have been dreaming of since being introduced to my church family two years ago.



My parents and I on a walk by the river close to my house



My dad building a puzzle with my neighbor Kat who came over to keep us entertained while we prepped for church



Church at my house!

My home continues to bless me and has also become a safe and warm space for friends on weekends and odd evenings. Something I prayed for was friends to come around me that would feel like family. The day I recognized God had answered this prayer was so sweet as I reflected on the neighbors that surprise me at my door with an invitation to join them for a walk or the friends that are eager to come over and make cookies during the week or for a puzzle and pizza on the weekend.



*An “Everybody bring your own craft day”
in my home* 

Games with my neighbor, Kat 

Old & New Ministries

My primary job here is with Greater Europe Missions leadership team. I really enjoy getting to work with them and their work in making and training disciples throughout Europe. I am also a part of a great little house church—this is what I see as my *local* ministry in Frankfurt. Over the last few months, a few other areas came to light that I feel God is calling me to lean into...

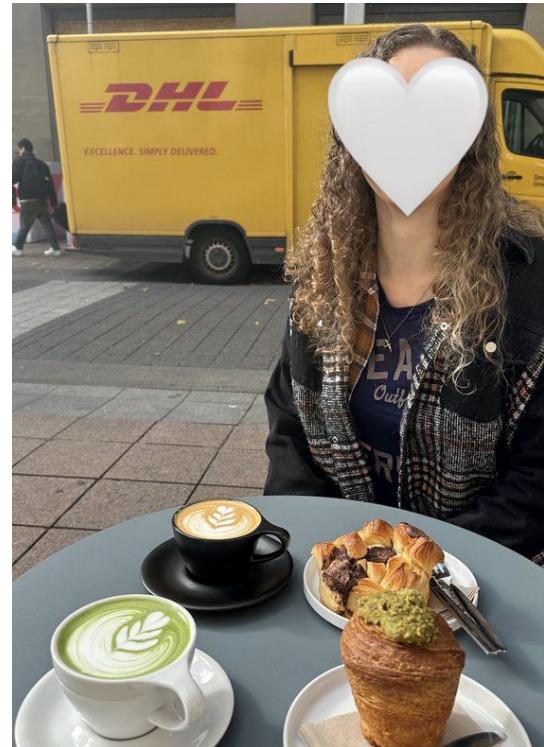
When I was experiencing some lows near the end of the Summer, something I recognized I really missed was reading the Bible with others in my own language. Since my church is in German and I am still learning the language, I don't usually get a lot out of our study together. As I worked with one of our pastoral counselors and brought this to God, I felt Him ask, “Well then, why don't you study the Bible in English with others?” This felt like such a “Duh, why didn't I think of that before??” But I think my goal of being able to participate in a German church kept me from considering this. I spent some time praying over who and how, but felt God bringing me back to a group of women I met at a retreat for First Term missionaries. I shared my heart with them, and within an hour, five of them replied with similar answers: This was something God wanted for all of us. So now, every other Thursday, me and several other

missionaries from all over Europe hop online and spend an hour or two praying for each other and reading the Bible together. I can confidently say, I have never had more fun reading the Bible, and I am so grateful for this sweet little Bible study!

Meeting with my language helper has also been an unexpected opportunity to share the love of God and the hope we can have in Him. She grew up in the church, but when life became difficult, she felt the church reject her and felt God abandoned her. I think she believes God exists, but I know she does not believe He loves her. God has surrounded her with friends who are believers, and I feel He is fighting for her. The last language practice we had together beautifully turned into an opportunity for me to share my testimony. A couple of days later, we were on a walk and she was asking me really deep questions like, “How do you know that God hasn’t left you?”, “How do you know that He loves you?”, and “Do you think God caused the difficult things in your life?” I am excited for these conversations to continue and pray God continues to open her heart towards hope.



Bible Study!



Language practice with my friend ❤

Another thing God has brought to my heart is being a safe person for the young girls around me. I miss my nieces and nephews dearly, and love that I get to live close to families with kids. I stayed with my neighbors' two little girls for a couple of days while their parents were

in the hospital for the birth of their new little boy. Something I felt so honored they trusted me to do. The girls were easy on me, we had lots of fun, and I only forgot the 2-year-old's shoes once (and we didn't make it very far before she let me know her feet were cold!). I also took my boss's two teenage girls out for a day to celebrate both of their birthdays that happened over the Fall. I remember how special it was to me growing up to have aunts and other godly women around me. Those whom I could look up to, spend time with, and who would disciple me. I feel God has now put me in a position to be that person for other girls.



The girls' day out for their birthdays which included bubble tea and pottery painting 🍵 🎨



Other missionary kids that dubbed me their “Sparkle Best Friend”—a title I 100% embraced, though I think I mostly got it because they couldn’t remember my name. ✈️

Christmastime

This was my first Christmas in Germany, and first Christmas away from home. Very bittersweet. I missed my family and visiting my parents home for annual gingerbread houses and Christmas lights at Shore Achers. However, I enjoyed getting to learn and embrace German traditions while still giving nods to those I grew up with. I didn't get to go see the

Christmas lights, but I did visit many beautiful Christmas markets (which Germans love, possibly even more than the tourists do!). I didn't make a gingerbread house, but I tried many of the traditional holiday sweets which were very different from the ones in the US. My sister Chelsea also came from Greece where she lives and visited me for Christmas. It has been so sweet to have family here to spend the holiday with!



Bringing my Christmas tree home on my little grocery wagon



Work Christmas party!



Christmas markets!



More Christmas markets!



Even more Christmas markets!



Okay, I went to a lot of Christmas markets



Christmas morning with Chelsea making cinnamon rolls and opening a few gifts 🎅

Looking Forward

The end of January will be my one-year anniversary of living in Germany—hard to believe! God has done so much over the last year. I have several bigger ministry opportunities coming in 2026. I will share more about them soon. I am also hoping to come back to the US for a

two-week span over the summer—I will definitely keep you updated on that as to when that will be, and where I will be. Chelsea and I will also be ringing in the new year by going to London for a few days with some of her friends. This will be my first real vacation since working with GEM and I am very much looking forward to it!

I am ending the year with a little amount of energy, but a big amount of gratitude. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement.

Prayer Requests

Thank you so much for your prayers. I feel them and they are so appreciated. Over the next couple of weeks, here are my biggest praises and prayer requests:

- **Prayer:** That God continues to open the heart of my language helper friend.
- **Praise:** For answered prayers of community and a safe home for myself and for others.

Thank you for your continued support! If there are any ways I can encourage you, pray for you, or any questions you have for me, please don't hesitate to reach out. As you support me, I hope to be a support for you.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Till next time, *tschüss!*

Emily Anderson

Photo featuring my brand new visa!





WhatsApp: +49 162 8189323
iMessage: emianderson6@gmail.com

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My service in Europe is not possible without the financial partners called to be a part of my work and it is an honor to have people join in this special way! While my ministry is blessed and I am able to serve full time with my current support team, I am still short of my monthly support need by \$200. If you are not already, I would encourage you to pray if God would have you be a part of filling this need with either monthly donations or a special gift.

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