

Picture #1 Those who traveled to Italy, Austria and Germany included Barb and Debbie Abraham, Jane and Bill Crise, Judy and Dan Linsley, Cheryl and Tom Sapinski and Pastor Susan. The group is standing in Mozart Square in Salzburg, Austria.



Picture #2 Mozart Square. Mozart was born and raised in Salzburg.



Picture #3 Tom and Cheryl Sapinski and Bill Crise wait in Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee to begin the trip.



Picture #4 Our first stop after landing in Munich, Germany was to experience the Concentration Camp at Dachau. The visit is a sobering reminder of atrocities of the Hitler regime during WW II.



Picture #5 There was still evidence of Epiphany in Steinach, Austria. Steinach, in the Austrian Alps on the Brenner Pass was our home for the week. An Epiphany tradition in many countries is the Blessing of Homes. On Epiphany, Jan 6, church people journey as the Wise Men journeyed. As the Wise Men entered into the house where Jesus was a child and blessed him with their gifts, homes are still blessed on this day. Each home is written with the year (20 + + + 10) and the initials of the names tradition has ascribed to the Wise Men - Casper, Melchior and Balthazar.



Picture #6 Cathedral and Monastery at Ettal. Still active today, the Monastery has welcomed many important figures such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, who was executed for speaking out against Hitler.



Picture #7 Church of the Meadows. The church is literally out in the Meadows. Instead the ceiling is painted with a beautiful portrayal of scenes from the book of Revelation. The statue of a chained Jesus stands above the altar in the Chancel area. Shortly after the church was given this statue it was placed in a barn. It was deemed too depressing to be placed in the sanctuary. One day, the owner of the barn went inside and noticed that the statue of Jesus was crying. The statue was brought out of storage and a church was built. Those who suffer and cry as Jesus suffered and cried come into the church for healing.



Picture #8 Picture of the Austrian Alps near the village of Steinach.



Picture #9: Waiting in the theatre for the Passion Play to begin.  
An intensely moving experience awaits!

