

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH. A DAY TO REMEMBER OUR COMPANION CHURCH IN RUSSIA



Rev. Alexander Lapochenko on the right with Pastor Jon Brudvig, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend during the 2017 visitation by a group from the Synod.

We in the Central States Synod celebrate our partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East

The Central States Synod has been in a Companion Church relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (ELSUSFE) with a special focus on the Far East since the early 90s. The 9 congregations in the Russian Far East as well as all across Russia have been slowly reemerging following decades of persecution and suppression by the Soviet government. One 80 year old lay minister told our visitation team that he had been baptized in secret because baptism was illegal when he was born.

Since that time there have been numerous visits both to Russia as well as visits from our Russian “Cousin Christians” to the Central States Synod. Our Christian partners in Russia find our visits to be a source of great encouragement, and visitors to Russia find their generous hospitality and examples of faithfulness and resourcefulness as they live out their faith and engage in ministry in their challenging context to be very inspiring. In the picture at the top of the page you see Pastor Alexander Lapochenko, Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Arsenyev, one of only 2 ordained Pastors in the Russian Far East (RFE). It is the financial support of the

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Missionary Bradn Buerkle giving a presentation at the annual summer Seminar for the Russian Far East in July of 2018

Central States Synod that enables Pastor Lapochenko to continue to serve St. Lukes and the people of the Russian Far East

Our help is also critically important in the near future as the RFE is going through a transition of leadership. 82 year old Pastor Manfred Brockmann is retiring and Dean Bradn Buerkle, Bishop Scheiermann and the people of the RFE are looking to our Synod to provide both finances and personnel during an interim period while the congregation and Deanery transition from the 25+ years of Pastor Brockmann’s leadership into a new chapter for the church there with a new leader.

The Central States Synod is the only synod in the ELCA who is partnering with the Lutheran Church in Asian Russia and our continued support is critically important. Please visit the Companion Synod page on the Synod Website for more information. And....

Please pray for Bishop Alexander Scheiermann, Missionary and Dean Bradn Buerkle, Dean Emeritus Manfred Brockmann and all of the people of the Lutheran Churches in Russia.

Consider making a contribution toward the support of Pastor Lapochenko; the ministry of the Russian Far East; or to help with the leadership transition in the Russian Far East.