

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3rd. 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.

Would your congregation become a sponsor congregation for Pastor Alexander Lapochenko for one month of the year?

Following a companion synod visitation to Russia in 2013, the Central States Synod committed to providing financial support for one of only two ordained Pastors in the Russian Far East, Pastor Alexander Lapochenko. Our Synod's financial support for Pastor Lapochenko is as important as ever, however, contributions for his support have lagged over the past year and the companion synod team is looking for a more organized way of funding his support than just depending on random contributions. We are looking for 12 congregations or church groups to commit to providing one month of support for Pastor Lapochenko each year. That amounts to \$500 for one month or \$6000.00 per year. For more information about Pastor Lapochenko and his ministry, please click on the following link and view the zoom conversation that you will find there. <https://www.css-elca.org/russia>.

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

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Rev. Alexander Scheiermann, Bishop of the Synod of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East 00.preaching in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Vladivostok, Russia.

suppression by the Soviet government.

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 to be very inspiring.

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 Bradn Buerkle, all of the people of the Lutheran Churches in Russia and especially Pastor Vitaly Mohr newly installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Vladivostok as the successor to long time Pastor, Manfred Brockmann.

Consider making a contribution toward the ministry of the Russian Far East or becoming a sponsor congregation for Pastor Alexander Lapochenko serving in the Russia Far East.