



Faith and Hope

a newsletter of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2018



Peace to you, dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Saturday, the theological seminars for lay people were held in the Lutheran parish of the Holy Trinity in Chita. We usually organize such seminars in our various parishes during summer time, but this year (due to financial reasons) we decided to hold the seminars in Chita in October. (Of course, we should confess that October in Siberia is “not quite summer!”)



The rector of our seminary, Alexey Streltsov, and instructor, Pavel Khramov, lectured on: “Love of God in the Gospel of John” and “Lutheran doctrine of Christ.” Our Bishop, Vsevolod Lytkin, served the Sunday liturgy and then spoke with the parishioners and answered their questions.



Our parish in Chita is special. You may have heard that one third of our parishioners in Chita are deaf. Therefore, all lectures and divine services are always translated into sign language [See Faith & Hope Newsletters #146 and #213]. In our country, it is not easy to be deaf, but the Church is surrounding her parishioners with love and care, and She helps them in everything.

In the parish of the Holy Trinity, there are two clergymen: Rev. Igor Kizyaev (senior priest) and Deacon Roman Kislov (who became the first deaf clergyman in Russian Lutheran Church in her entire history; see SLMS December 2007 newsletter: <https://www.siberianlutheranmissions.org/newsletters>). The Deacon takes great care of the parishioners, always helps them, listens to them and hears their confessions. Everyone knows him as a worthy and trustful clergyman and opens their most personal secrets before him. Our deaf parishioners are very missionary oriented people. They constantly talk about Jesus Christ to their neighbors and invite them to the church.



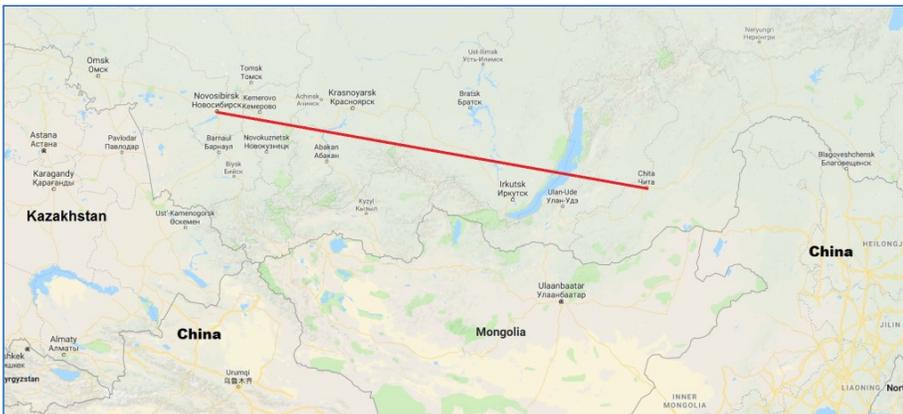
Alas, our parish in Chita does not have its own church building. We have to rent a facility. Currently, the parish rents a small house in the suburbs. This house is really small. It is often difficult to fit everyone inside during liturgy --

especially during Church festivals. Many people do not have a place to seat, and have to stand, even in the corridor. But people want to pray the liturgy, hear the sermon and receive the holy sacrament. Many parishioners travel great distances to attend Sunday liturgy.



During last Sunday liturgy, everyone (some with voice, and others in sign language) sang a new anthem. The text was written by Tatyana Sokolova, and music, by Alexandra Kantorovich (both are from Novosibirsk):

***By the greater grace we are still alive,
Revealed to mortals in the Son of God,
In the sacrificial Lamb sent down from above,
In the God crucified,
Who loved our world;
Christ is my joy!***



Come visit us in eastern Siberia, to pray and to sing with us to our Lord. We will be glad to see you! Please pray for the Lutheran clergymen and lay people who live in eastern Siberia. Pray for our parish that we will soon be able to find a bigger building for our growing congregation. ❄❄❄

This "Faith and Hope" newsletter is published by: The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC). Her bishop, Vsevolod Lytkin, serves St. Andrew congregation in Novosibirsk where the SELC continues to grow and be a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Holy Sacraments provided for sinners seeking forgiveness and healing of body and soul. This edition of the Faith and Hope newsletter is edited, reformatted and distributed by [The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society \(SLMS\)](#), a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LC-MS).

In this newsletter, the members of the SELC reveal their faith and hopes. They are Siberian Russians seeking an answer to challenges and problems in their lives. They are a people who have been called by Christ in the healing waters of Holy Baptism and fed by the holy precious food of His body and blood. They may speak a different language but they are all baptized in the name of the same LORD and eat and drink the same Jesus. These are a people who know the mission of the Church – a mission which begins and finds its conclusion in the Word and Sacraments properly administered. We invite you to read this newsletter with a prayer of divine grace for our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Siberia. Their challenges in a land of pagan Buddhism, shamanism, and atheism is great. Your prayers and continuing support is appreciated.

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