



Campaign Update

News from the Save the Seminary Campaign

NOVEMBER 2020

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**MATCHING GIFT
CHALLENGE**

See Details Below

THE TRIFECTA OF MISSION FESTIVALS

EIGHT KANSAS CITY AREA CHURCHES HOST *SAVE THE SEMINARY* PRESENTATIONS



Pastor Frank Frye (left), of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kansas City, coordinated the "trifecta" with other pastors and Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill, the fundraising director for the *Save the Seminary* Campaign.

Trifecta is defined as "a run of three wins or grand events." The two-day Kansas City mission festival on October 18-19, celebrated by eight LCMS churches, was the mother of trifectas (or deserves the title *trifecta*). Eight congregations participated in the three grand events.

Morning Worship Begins the Day

The mission festival began on Sunday morning with the Divine Service. All eight congregations celebrated the Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist, with guest mission speakers preaching on the Luke 10:1-9 account of Jesus sending the 72 to preach the Kingdom of God and bring the Lord's peace into homes. What an appropriate text for a mission festival supporting the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia, which exists to train and send pastors to replace those who had been persecuted and killed by the Soviet Communists.



During the Bible-class hour, representatives of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society made presentations about the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, and the *Save the Seminary* Campaign.

The second grand event also took place on Sunday morning during the Bible-class hour, as representatives from the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) made presentations on the life of the faithful in the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Siberian Church's seminary in Novosibirsk, mission outreach across the vast Russian nation, and the campaign to raise money for an endowment to ensure that the seminary survives.

First worship, then study and learning, and then the last grand event took place at the KC Bier Company Biergarten, which is owned by LCMS layman Steve Holle. On Monday evening, nearly one hundred



The Monday evening event at the Kansas City Biergarten included (l to r), Stephen and Erikka O'Toole, Curt and Elenita Wendt, and Heidi and Larry Scroggins from Holy Cross in Kansas City.

Lutheran gathered in the Biergarten and tasting hall for beer, bratwurst, live German music and good, cozy conversation with family, friends, and fellow Lutherans.

A reminder of Luther's "table talks"

The long refectory table in the cavernous Luther home seated up to 50 people and was Luther's favorite spot to hold forth on theology, philosophy, and life in general. As described in *Luther's Works, Table Talks* and in works by other authors, after the day's labors had past, Luther would sit with his friends and talk. Fueled by his wife's excellent beer, conversation would become general, discursive, and sometimes unbuttoned. *

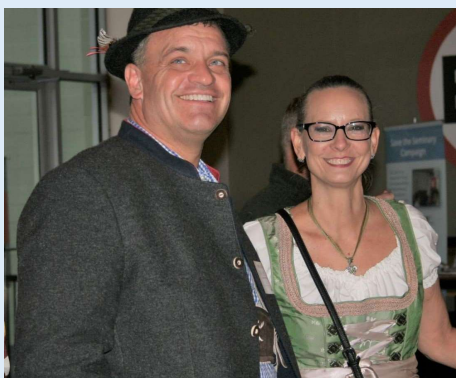


More than 90 people from the eight Kansas City area churches that participated in the mission festival enjoyed the fellowship at the Kansas City Biergarten on Monday evening.

The grand mission festival that began Sunday morning in Divine Service, receiving the great gift of God's Word ended the next day with fellowship with friends. The evening at the KC Biergarten was a genuine German *Gemutlichkeit*, conveying the cozy feeling of warmth, friendliness, good cheer, peace of mind, and a sense of belonging and well-being. One of Luther's most famous quotes ties these two events together.

Concerning the Word, Luther said, "I will preach it, teach it, write it, but I will constrain no man by force, for faith must come freely without compulsion. Take myself as an example. I oppose indulgences and all

the papists, but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept [cf. Mark 4:26-27], or drank beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything." **



Pastor Robert Weinkauf and his wife Jody, of Risen Savior in Basehor, Kansas, dressed in traditional German attire for the Biergarten event.



Steve Holle, owner of KC Bier Company and a fellow Lutheran, hosted the Biergarten event on Monday evening.

It all depends on the Word. That is why the opening Divine Service is essential for conducting a successful fundraising campaign. No one

*Luther's Works, Vol. 53, Table Talks; and Brand Luther: How an Unheralded Monk Turned History, by Andrew Pettegree

**Luther's Works, Vol. 51, page 71



Deep in conversation, these participants gather around one of the long tables at the Biergarten fellowship. Luther often engaged in long, sometimes intense, conversations at the long table in his home.



Perhaps this conversation at the Biergarten reflects the importance of many of Luther's "table talks." In 1529 at Marburg, Luther refuted Zwingli's assertions about the real presence of the body and blood with the words of Jesus "This is my body," that Luther had written with chalk on the table.

is pressured to give during the Sunday morning service or presentation. Giving must be free and joyful. The presentation ends by explaining ways in which individuals and congregations can support the mission of the *Save the Seminary Campaign*. Individuals, families, congregational representatives are simply asked to go home and prayerfully consider how they will respond. Some congregations choose to put out an offering plate, and of course, we welcome their gifts.

Thank you to the Kansas City churches

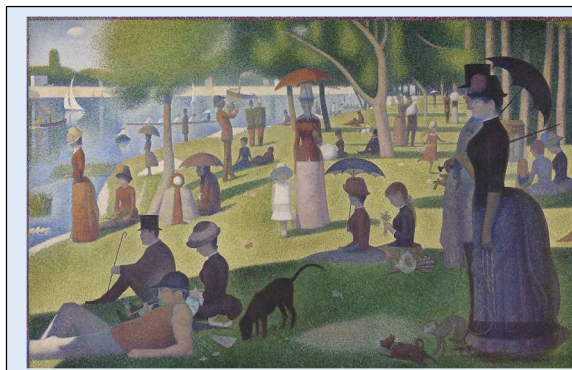
On behalf of the *Save the Seminary* committee, special thanks to Steve Holley, owner of KC Bier Company for providing the venue and beer, Thrivent for assistance with the meal, Terrie Reece for taking photographs, Pastor Frank Frye who served as local coordinator, and the pastors and members of the eight host congregations, Holy Cross, Kansas City; Holy Trinity, Grandview; Prince of Peace, Cameron; Mount Calvary, Excelsior Springs; St. John, Farley; Trinity, Kearney; Christ Lutheran, Platte Woods; all in Missouri; and Risen Savior in Basehor, Kansas.

Visiting presenters and preachers included Pastors Noah Burgdorf, Salisbury, Missouri; Gregory Truwe, Cole Camp, Missouri; Brent Kuhlman, Murdock, Nebraska, and SLMS members Matt Doctor, Frank Frye, Daniel Johnson, Timothy Quill, and Michael Scudder.

COMING IN MAY 2021: A SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN THE PARK WITH LUTHERANS

The next "trifecta" *Save the Seminary* mission festival is scheduled for May 16 and hosted by congregations in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area. Sunday morning Divine Services and presentations will be followed by an afternoon dinner in the park.

The theme of the dinner party is inspired by French painter Georges Seurat's famous painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. When Seurat began the painting in 1884, the island was a bucolic retreat far from the urban center. The next *Save the Seminary* event is scheduled to take place at Herman's Boy's Coffee Ranch, a 120-year-old specialty coffee roasting company, located on a beautiful farm setting in Rockford, Michigan.



TELL THE STORY OF GOD'S WORK IN RUSSIA TO YOUR CONGREGATION

You also can bring the story of the restoration of the Lutheran church in Russia to your congregation. *The Save the Seminary Campaign* team has prepared a presentation package with everything needed to tell this wonderful story. About 45 minutes in length, the package includes PowerPoint® and video presentations, as well as a bulletin insert, handouts, and other aids. If you would like a package to use for your congregation, please let us know. Just call the *Save the Seminary Campaign* office at 260 209-1647.

MATCHING CHALLENGE DOUBLES YOUR GIFT TO THE *SAVE THE SEMINARY CAMPAIGN*

Good news! With a current matching challenge from a generous donor, your gift to the *Save the Seminary Campaign* will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$50,000 for all contributions received for the match. Just mark your gift for the “**2020 End Strong**” match. By doing so, your contribution will go even further to helping support the training of new pastors at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia. Most importantly, your gift will help spread the Good News of God's saving grace and help rebuild the Lutheran Church in Russia. The seminary is the primary pastoral teaching school of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is in full altar and pulpit fellowship with the Missouri Synod.

YOUR GIFT WILL GO A LONG WAY
TO HELPING SPREAD THE GOOD
NEWS OF SALVATION TO THE
LONG-REPRESSED AND SPIRITUALLY
STARVED RUSSIAN PEOPLE.

Securing the perpetual sustainability of the seminary in Novosibirsk requires meeting two vital goals simultaneously—raising \$75,000 each year through 2023 to keep the seminary doors open until the long-term goal of establishing a \$7 million endowment has been reached. Will you help us ensure that the seminary remains a strong force in training Lutheran pastors, even while we work to raise a permanent endowment? Please act now to give your contribution to the *Save the Seminary Campaign* even greater strength.

If you have any questions about the campaign or the seminary, please contact **Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill**, Director of Seminary Fundraising (260 580-0812) or **Gerry Wiley**, Chairman of the *Save the Seminary Campaign* fundraising committee (909 419-1327). You also can contact them via email at savetheseminary@gmail.com.

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Timothy 2:2

This is a publication of The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society. For more information about its contents, please contact:

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