



Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

RESTORING THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN RUSSIA

Христос воскрес!

*An Easter message from Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin
of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Brothers and Sisters,

Many people today live in constant stress and try to avoid unnecessary worries. Perhaps this is why fewer people come to church during Holy Week than on Easter.

Holy Week is, indeed, a particularly tense time of the church year. When we hear about the betrayal, suffering, and death of Christ, we understand that our earthly life consists of these three. Here, people, great and small, constantly betray each other; here we are faced with unimaginable, unceasing suffering that ends not in relief, but in death. How sad it would be if this earthly life were the only one we have!

And what a miracle that our Lord Jesus Christ came to redeem us with His cross and rose again to give us His eternal life. He became for us a salvific supper, a "medicine of immortality," by receiving which we will rise from the dead like Him, according to His promise (cf. John 6:54).

God wants everyone to be saved (1Tim. 2:4). And sometimes it even seems that our salvation is more important to God than to ourselves. So, Christ fights for us with death, saving us from spiritual laziness, pride, and unwillingness to follow His will — so that we would be in church not only on Easter (and Christmas), live a Christian life, and regularly commune with Him.

Today, we all have a great opportunity to start a new life. Those of you who are not yet baptized, ask the priest about this sacrament. For those who are baptized but have gone away from the Church, Easter is the perfect day to return to Christ. And we all need to renew the baptismal vows today.

Finally, share the Easter joy with your neighbors. Tell your friends and neighbors about God's love, which is stronger than death. And that for those who believe in Christ, all earthly griefs become temporary, and life will never end, because death no longer has power over us.

Blessed Easter to all of you! Christ is risen! Христос воскрес!

Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin



Will You Continue to Help Support the Lutheran Church in Siberia?

Your gifts are blessings to those who serve and worship in the parishes of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church and at the seminary in Novosibirsk. Generous donations from Missouri Synod Lutherans in the United States have always been indispensable to helping the Siberian Church and the seminary survive.

Challenges associated with spreading the Gospel in Siberia are great. Decades of atheism have numbed the minds of many in Russia to the concept of God's ever-present love in Christ. Some have been exposed to ministries that have taught the doctrine of law without the all-important understanding of the preeminent role of God's grace in man's salvation.



Despite the challenges of spreading the Gospel in Siberia, the Siberian Mission Society remains steadfast in its support of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church and its pastors, as well as the church's seminary in Novosibirsk.

You can help advance the work of the Siberian Mission Society in three specific ways:

1. *Use your dollars to support Siberian Lutheran pastors as they carry God's Word and Sacrament to the many people in their areas of service who need God's saving grace.*
2. *Invest in the day-to-day cost of operating the Novosibirsk Seminary.*
3. *Help ensure the seminary's long-term survival by contributing to the Save the Seminary Campaign.*

If you have questions about the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, or the work of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, please contact SLMS President, Rev. Daniel Johnson (DanielSJohnson356@gmail.com), or Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill, Director of Fundraising (260 580-0812).

When you write a check to support the work of the Novosibirsk Seminary, please write Save the Seminary on your check.

THANK YOU!

"IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE MORE THAN 3,400 SUPPORTERS OF THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS. THEY MATTER — TODAY AND IN THE YEARS TO COME.

THANK YOU!



THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN
MISSION SOCIETY
8811 ST. JOE ROAD
FORT WAYNE, IN 46835

WEBSITE
SIBERIANLUTHERANMISSIONS.ORG

EMAIL
SIBERIANLUTHERANMISSIONS@GMAIL.COM

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