



Campaign Update

News from the Save the Seminary Campaign

MARCH 2021

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ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!
ОН ДЕЙСТВИТЕЛЬНО ВОСКРЕС!
Аллелуйя! Аллелуйя!

Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!
Alleulia! Alleulia!

Easter greetings from
the *Save the Seminary
Campaign*

What a blessing we have in the salvation that Jesus gave us. As we celebrate this tremendous gift, let's also remember those who have yet to hear the Good News.

Bishop Vsevolod Litkin, of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, prays at the altar of St. Mary's Lutheran Church, in Tomsk, Russia, about 300 miles from Novosibirsk. Known locally as the "log" church, St. Mary's was completely rebuilt in 2006. The church had been destroyed early in the Communist era.

Traveling far to teach and preach the Gospel gives new meaning to 'distance learning' for pastors in Siberia

"Distance learning" is a term we in the United States frequently hear these days as we cope with the impact of COVID -19 on our schools. To those at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, and pastors of the Siberian Lutheran Church, the term takes on a new meaning—in fact, a frequent reality—as pastors often travel long distances to teach and minister to new and prospective Lutherans in the far reaches of Siberia.

As many of us understand, Siberia is a huge expanse of land. Covering an area of 5.1 million square miles, it accounts for more than three-

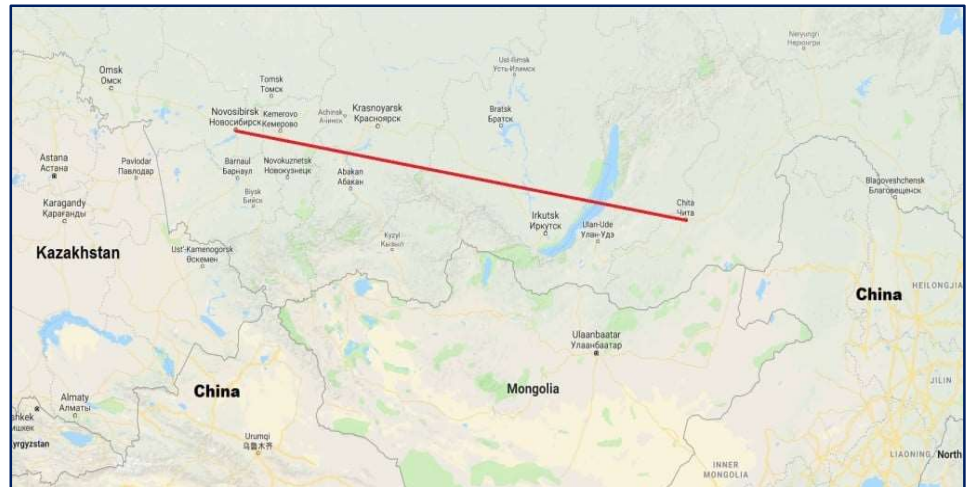


fourths of Russia, but at about 33 million people, Siberia includes just one-fourth of Russia's population. That means reaching many of those living in Siberia requires traveling long distances. For pastors and faculty at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, travel is a reality they must seriously plan for as they extend the teaching of the Gospel beyond Novosibirsk.

Pastor Khramov recounts his trip to Chita

Just this past February 28, the first Sunday of Lent, seminary Professor Pavel Khramov, who is also pastor at St. Andrew's in Novosibirsk, visited Holy Trinity parish in Chita, in the far eastern region of Siberia. During his time there, Pastor Khramov conducted a home service for an elderly couple, who lives outside of the city. Then he gave the catechism lecture for parishioners and celebrated the Divine Service with Pastor Igor Kizyaev of Holy Trinity.

Here is Pastor Khramov's account of his visit to Chita, as he shared on the Novosibirsk Seminary's Facebook® page:



In Novosibirsk, our parishioners have the privilege to hear different preachers and to attend weekly Bible classes led by the seminary instructors. It is not so in remote parishes like the parish in Chita. This town is located about 2,000 miles from Novosibirsk. It makes for majority of people in our parish there practically impossible to attend even the theological conferences held twice a year. Thus, we try to visit such parishes.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to use more extensive tools for distance teaching and communication. However, some people, especially elderly and poor, have difficulties in using these instruments. Moreover, the personal contact has the special flavor and impact that is lost when we speak with the screen.

I always love to come to Chita. I admire the faithfulness of the parishioners in Chita. Most of them are very poor. But they pay rent for the building for the church and for the utilities by



themselves. And in Eastern Siberia, the bills for the heating are not moderate at all.

Every time when I teach there, I see the great interest, real hunger for the Word of God. People are always attentive; they ask good questions. Also, I should mention the great translator to the sign-language, Ekaterina. Without her help, a good number of parishioners (about a third of our parishioners in Chita are deaf people) would not be able to understand what I tell at the class and in my sermon.

Professor, Pastor Khramov's account of his travels to Chita help to shine a light on the true importance of ensuring that the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk remains a spiritually and financially strong voice for confessional Lutheranism in Siberia and other parts of Russia. You can help by supporting the *Save the Save Campaign*.

SAVE THE SEMINARY CAMPAIGN REACHES \$1.5 MILLION

WILL YOU HELP REACH THE CAMPAIGN GOAL?

Just now, word of Christ's resurrection is making its way to the spiritually starved people of Russia through the efforts of Lutheran pastors trained at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia. The seminary's goal is to make the Good News of Jesus Christ widely known throughout a land long repressed by atheistic communism.

Lutheran Legacy Foundation Grant Covers Campaign Expenses

We extend our earnest thanks to the Lutheran Legacy Foundation for its generous pledge to cover the administrative costs associated conducting the campaign.

With this support from the Lutheran Legacy Foundation, we can assure you that every dollar you and others contribute to the *Save the Seminary Campaign* goes wholly to fund the Novosibirsk seminary. None of your contributions pay for campaign expenses.

If you are interested in establishing a charitable remainder trust, the foundation will connect you with an advisor to assist in the process.

At the request of Synod president, Matthew Harrison, and the help of many Missouri Synod Lutherans, the *Save the Seminary Campaign* has gathered more than \$1.5 million to support the Novosibirsk Seminary in training Lutheran pastors for this important evangelical effort. Our goal is \$7 million. **You and others in your congregation can be part of this important mission through your financial support for the *Save the Seminary Campaign*.**

The seminary was established in 1997 at the request of Missouri Synod leaders and is now a strong, independent institution, managed and staffed by a first-class faculty of Russian pastors. Funds that the campaign gathers will be used exclusively to support the ongoing operations of the seminary.

Your gift to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, 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 matters. Securing the perpetual sustainability of the seminary in Novosibirsk requires meeting two vital goals simultaneously—raising \$75,000 each year to keep the seminary doors open until the long-term goal of establishing a \$7 million endowment has been reached. Will you help ensure that the seminary remains a strong force in training Lutheran pastors, even while work continues to raise a permanent endowment? Make your contribution today. **Through your contribution to the *Save the Seminary Campaign*, you will be helping the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk spread God’s Word to the spiritually starved people of Russia and help restore the Lutheran Church in Russia.**

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 CAN MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION BY CHECK OR BY USING THE CR CODE AT THE RIGHT. THE CR CODE WILL CONNECT YOU TO THE *SAVE THE SEMINARY CAMPAIGN* ONLINE CONTRIBUTION PAGE.

IF YOU CONTRIBUTE BY CHECK, PLEASE DESIGNATE *SAVE THE SEMINARY CAMPAIGN* ON YOU CHECK. YOU ALSO CAN MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION ONLINE AT WWW.SIBERIANLUTHERANMISSIONS.ORG.

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GRAND RAPIDS AND INDIANAPOLIS MISSION FESTIVALS PLANNED FOR MAY

The next *Save the Seminary* mission festivals are set for May 16 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and one week later, on May 23, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Both events are being hosted by a group of LCMS congregations in the festival areas. At both events, Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, rector of the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, will give a short presentation about the work and progress of the Russian seminary in reintroducing God’s Word to the Russian people in Siberia and other parts of the country.

Grand Rapids ‘Sunday Afternoon at the Park’ set for nearby Rockford, Michigan

Sunday morning Divine Services and Bible School presentations at various local Grand Rapids churches will be followed by an afternoon dinner in the park.

The event is scheduled to take place at Hermon’s Boy Specialty Coffee Ranch, located on a beautiful, bucolic garden setting in nearby Rockford, Michigan. The location is much like that pictured in French painter Georges Seurat’s famous painting, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*.



Indianapolis event planned for 'The Barn at Kennedy Farm' in Lizton, Indiana

The Indianapolis area event is set for May 23, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at The Barn at Kennedy Farm, in Lizton, Indiana, on the northwest side of Indianapolis. "The Barn" is an elegant and stately 5,000-sq.-ft, Amish-built structure, sitting on 40 acres of land. The event center is surrounded by towering oaks and lush green pastures, making for an inviting and comfortable setting.

Like other *Save the Seminary Campaign* events, the day's activities begin with Divine Service and Bible School presentations at Indianapolis-area LCMS churches, with an afternoon fellowship event at The Barn at Kennedy Farm that will be similar to the one in Grand Rapids.

For more information about either of these *Save the Seminary* mission festivals, please contact the campaign office at 260 209-1647, or by email at savetheseminary@gmail.com.



SAVE THE SEMINARY CAMPAIGN – SUPPORTING THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN NOVOSIBIRSK, SIBERIA, AND HELPING TO RESTORE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN RUSSIA.

“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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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FOLLOW THE QR CODE TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE *SAVE THE SEMINARY CAMPAIGN*.

