

# mission

## EXTRA

SEPT.  
2013

Saint Mary's Lutheran  
Church in Tomsk, Siberia



## LCMS Convention affirms altar, pulpit fellowship with Siberian Church

ST. LOUIS (July 22, 2013)

With a vote of 965 to 3, LCMS convention delegates overwhelmingly affirmed altar and pulpit fellowship between the LCMS and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC), in passing Resolution 4-02. After convention attendees rose to sing the Doxology in celebration and thanksgiving of this partnership in the Gospel, Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin, on behalf of the SELC, spoke to the delegates.

"Greetings to you in the name of our Lord. It brings me special joy to

greet this assembly on behalf of the brothers and sisters of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The LCMS has played a very special part in the life of the Siberian church, especially in providing matters of theological education," Lytkin said.

"In terms of time, we in Russia are ahead of you. When we work, you are still asleep in your beds. When we celebrate the new year, you are still in the past. The situation is similar with the fellowship between the LCMS and the SELC. We are by default in fellowship with other Lutherans unless doctrine or other irreparable differences prohibit it. We

know things should be done decently and in good order, and for this we praise Christ alone who is the source of contentment and good unity," he concluded.

Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison previously declared fellowship with the SELC in December 2010, after the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations recognized full agreement between the LCMS and SELC the same month. The SELC consists of approximately 21 churches and 21 pastors and deacons spread throughout Siberia, which is the largest

“After the Bolshevik Revolution [November 7-8, 1917], when Lutherans were sent to Siberia from St. Petersburg and Moscow, they maintained a Lutheran faith by preserving from memory the Lutheran liturgy and Luther’s Small Catechism. According to the first Lutheran missionaries who arrived in Siberia after the fall of the Soviet Union, many handwritten hymnals and catechisms were still extant after seventy years of use. The Lutheran tradition was handed down through these primitive means, and because of persecution, the contents of these catechetical and liturgical documents were precious. Under such circumstances... what is most important is preserving the faith and handing it on to another generation.” (Dr. Arthur Just, *Heaven on Earth*, 35)

geographical territory of the LCMS partner churches.



## MISSION FIELDS: Siberia

Rev. Alan Ludwig  
Career Missionary

Pastor Alan Ludwig serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Siberia, Russia. He is a theological educator, which includes teaching seminary courses, working with team members in developing theological education in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union and, upon request, teaching and preaching at a local Lutheran congregation in the city of Novosibirsk in Siberia. Since 1998, Alan has worked with the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) and taught seminary courses at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, which is operated by the SELC, a partner/

sister church of the LCMS. The seminary was founded in 1997.

Alan graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1989 with an M.Div., and earned an S.T.M. in 1992. From 1992-98, Alan served as the pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, Cresbard, SD, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wecota, SD. Alan also served on the staff of LOGIA, a Lutheran theological journal. Prior to attending seminary, Alan graduated from Boise State University with a Bachelor of Music and worked as a private music teacher. His hobbies include music, art, poetry, literature, computers and walking.

**Short-term missionaries** are needed to serve alongside missionaries and partner churches for one week to six months. Short-term missionaries serve in various and important roles in His harvest field. Short-term missionaries have served as pastors, nurses, doctors, teachers, business managers, camp counselors, and in many other crucial positions. As a short-term missionary, you will have an excellent opportunity to build lasting relationships, use your God-given gifts to His service, experience church and life in another culture, and become a beacon of light in a dark world. To learn more about short term missions, visit [www.lcms.org/short-term](http://www.lcms.org/short-term).

### Rev. Dr. Al Collver

Recently, the chair of the Synod’s *Commission on Theology and Church Relations* (CTCR), Rev. Dr. Al Collver, visited Russia. Read about his travels [here](#) on the *Witness, Mercy, Life Together* blog ([wmltblog.org](http://wmltblog.org)).

### Siberia Letter

Read the Rev. Alan Ludwig’s summer newsletter [here](#). Visit Pastor Ludwig’s website: [siberiamissionary.org](http://siberiamissionary.org).

### Please pray for:

- + Missions, missionaries and missionary organizations in the church
- + Young church plants
- + Church leaders: in the LCMS, the Northwest District, and here at Zion
- + Missionary zeal at home and open doors among the nations
- + The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC)

### Zion Lutheran Church

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