

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Boyle's Scheduled Hours: Off on Mondays  
 At Grace—Tues & Wed.  
 At Trinity—Thurs & Fri  
 \*He can best be reached: (316) 650-1583  
 Church Office Hours:  
 Tuesday – Thursday 10am-3pm  
 (Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 11:30-4pm)



**We're on the Web**  
[www.tlcwichita.org](http://www.tlcwichita.org)

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30AM Sunday School and Bible Class  
 \*At Grace this month  
 11:00AM Divine Service

Trinity Lutheran Church  
 611 S. Erie Street  
 Wichita, KS 67211-2999  
 Address Services Requested  
 Phone: 316-685-1571  
 E-mail: [office@tlc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:office@tlc.kscoxmail.com)



## THE TORCH - October 2015

Sharing Christ's Salvation Story So That Every Soul Is Saved!

### A Reformation for Marriage?

Last month the local LCMS pastors asked me to offer some theological reflections on this summer's Supreme Court Decision regarding same-sex unions.

I argued that marriage belongs neither to the State, nor to the Church.

It seems strange, especially with what appears to be a power struggle between the two over who *controls* marriage – what it is, who may enter, and what it's for. But Luther was quite consistent here; he spoke of life's *three estates*: the Home, the State, and the Church.

Marriage, following its natural course as a one-flesh union of man and woman, creates family because – rightly consummated – it creates life. And where life springs, there also the state, a society of people. Likewise the Church, you need people gathered to Jesus. So, without marriage there's neither Church nor State; yet, hypothetically, without Church or State, marriage may still exist.

With that fundamental notion of marriage we might ask: "What do the Church and State have to do with Marriage?"

The State cares for marriage because it recognizes that the life of the State depends upon it. The State is given to protect and defend *life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*. (Happiness, by the way, implies the true, the good, and the beautiful – not merely momentary feelings of happiness.) To do this, it cares a great deal about who marries whom for the sake of protecting, educating, and supporting those procreated by marriage into society.

A bit surprisingly, considering the Church, Luther wished to have no part in marriage. He says in his *Marriage Booklet*, attached to his 1529 Small Catechism,

*"So many lands, so many customs," says the common proverb. For this reason, because weddings and the married estate are worldly affairs, it behooves those of us who are "spirituals" or ministers of the church in no way to order or direct anything regarding marriage, but instead to allow every city and land to continue their own customs that are now in use...all these and similar things I leave to the prince and town council to create and arrange as they want. It is no concern of mine.*

Luther then, hesitantly, offers a brief Marriage Rite. Interestingly, the vows, being public and legal, were performed *outside* the church's walls. After the legal exchange the couple enters the Sanctuary for the Word of God and the prayers of the faithful.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas  
 Church Office Telephone– (316) 685-1571  
 Email Address: [office@tlc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:office@tlc.kscoxmail.com) – website: [www.tlcwichita.org](http://www.tlcwichita.org)

To recap: the Church is given to bless marriage with the Word of God and prayer; the State is given to protect and support marriage with whatever benefits will strengthen its citizens. Neither has *control over* marriage; and, in a way, both derive existence from it.

This rethinking of marriage might suggest a Reformation of marriage, particularly the Marriage Rite. As it is, marriage is either in the courtroom or the church – stigmas attached to each – no wonder some consider these realities: marriage vs. Holy Matrimony.

How can we most clearly profess marriage for what it is: God's institution for the procreation of life in faith toward God (*Church*) and service to the neighbor (*State*)?

Briefly, I offer here a couple thoughts on a new Marriage Rite and greatly desire your feedback if possible.

Presently, the State allows clergy to act as agents of the State, serving as witnesses to a lawful marriage. To clarify the legal function, rightly belonging to the State, I'd recommend either: a) prior to coming to the Church, the man and woman present themselves to a local judge or magistrate; or b) if the Pastor performs the legal function, it should take place *outside the Church doors*, as with Luther, without the celebratory vestments such as the Stole. Here the vows are exchanged, along with a declaration, recognizing the public, legal marriage.

After the legal portion (either earlier by a judge, or outside by the Pastor), then the married couple, seeking the Lord's blessing, may follow the Pastor into the Church where the marriage is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer (1 Tim 4:5). The pastor's full vestments confess his spiritual, priestly duties to bless the marriage.

The point of all this is to recognize marriage for what it is, and to confess that neither Church nor State has any control over it. One recognizes, protects, and supports; the other blesses and makes holy. But marriage simply is. And though abused by both Church and State, as well as by those who seek to enter it (or, likely, those who don't!), the abuse doesn't change its essence.

This sort of Reformation isn't a moving forward, up and beyond, but the sort that Luther recognized: a Reformation by and toward the truth.

Yours in Christ our Heavenly Bridegroom, Pastor



A Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
Treatise Compiled by the Theologians Assembled at Smalcald - 1537

But those who agree with the Pope, and defend his doctrine and [false] services, defile themselves with idolatry and blasphemous opinions, become guilty of the blood of the godly, whom the Pope [and his adherents] persecutes, detract from the glory of God, and hinder the welfare of the Church, because they strengthen errors and crimes to all posterity [in the sight of all the world and to the injury of all descendants].

Of the Power and Jurisdiction of Bishops.

60] [In our Confession and the Apology we have in general recounted what we have had to say concerning ecclesiastical power. For] The Gospel assigns to those who preside over churches the command to teach the Gospel to remit sins, to administer the Sacraments and besides jurisdiction, namely, the command to excommunicate those whose crimes are known, and again to absolve those who repent.

61] And by the confession of all, even of the adversaries, it is clear that this power by divine right is common to all who preside over churches, whether they are called pastors, or elders, or bishops. 62] And accordingly Jerome openly teaches in the apostolic letters that all who preside over churches are both bishops and elders, and cites from Titus 1:5f: For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst ordain elders in every city [and afterwards calls these persons bishops]. Then he adds: A bishop must be the husband of one wife. Likewise Peter and John call themselves elders [or priests] 1 Pet. 5:1; 2 John 1. And he then adds: But that afterwards one was chosen to be placed over the rest, this was done as a remedy for schism, lest each one by attracting [a congregation here or there] to himself might rend the Church of Christ. For at Alexandria, from Mark the evangelist to the bishops Heracles and Dionysius, the elders always elected one from among themselves, and placed him in a higher station, whom they called bishop; just as an army would make a commander for itself. The deacons, moreover, may elect from among themselves one whom they know to be active, and name him archdeacon. For with the exception of ordination, what does the bishop that the elder does not?

63] Jerome, therefore, teaches that it is by human authority that the grades of bishop and elder or pastor are distinct. And the subject itself declares this, because the power [the office and command] is the same, as he has said above. 64] But one matter afterwards made a distinction between bishops and pastors namely, ordination, because it was [so] arranged that one bishop should ordain ministers in a number of churches.

65] But since by divine authority the grades of bishop and pastor are not diverse, it is manifest that ordination administered by a pastor in his own church is valid by divine law [if a pastor in his own church ordains certain suitable persons to the ministry, such ordination is, according to divine law, undoubtedly effective and right].

66] Therefore, when the regular bishops become enemies of the Church, or are unwilling to administer ordination, the churches retain their own right. [Because the regular bishops persecute the Gospel and refuse to ordain suitable persons, every church has in this case full authority to ordain its own ministers.]

67] For wherever the Church is, there is the authority [command] to administer the Gospel. Therefore it is necessary for the Church to retain the authority to call, elect, and ordain ministers. And this authority is a gift which in reality is given to the Church, which no human power can wrest from the Church, as Paul also testifies to the Ephesians when he says, Eph 4:8: He ascended, He gave gifts to men. And he enumerates among the gifts specially belonging to the Church pastors and teachers, and adds that such are given for the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Hence, wherever there is a true church, the right to elect and ordain ministers necessarily exists. Just as in a case of necessity even a layman absolves, and becomes the minister and pastor of another; as Augustine narrates the story of two Christians in a ship, one of whom baptized the catechumen, who after Baptism then absolved the baptizer.

To be continued next month...

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Dates range from October 3rd to October 31st. Events include Circuit Forum @Grace, LWML Sunday, Lords Diner 5:30p, Commemoration of Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, Pastor, Hall of Men 7:30p, Commemoration of Abraham, LWML Fall Rally @Trinity, Commemoration of Philip the Deacon, Columbus Day, Labor Finders, Church Council Meeting 7p, Ladies Guild Meeting/Bible Study 9:30a, Elders Meeting 7p, Reformation Planning Meeting 4:30p, Commemoration of Ignatius of Antioch, Pastor and Martyr, Church Clean Up Day, Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist, Sisters of Sophia 6:15p, Elders Confessions Study 7:30p, Torch Deadline, Joint Parish Council 8p, Hall of Men 7:30p, Festival of St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr, Catechesis Retreat in Herington KS (Fri-Sat), Reformation Festival @Trinity, Commemoration of Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, & St. Paul Gerhart, Hymnwriters, Festival of St., Simon & St., Jude, Apostles, Movie Night 6p, Festival of Reformation, TRINITY FALL FESTIVAL 3-5p, Halloween.

Sunday Worship Services 11am
Bible Study 9:30am @Grace for the month of October
Youth Catechesis 3:15@Grace

Wednesdays
Adult Catechesis 6pm @Trinity
Children's Choir Practice 6:30pm @Trinity
Evening Prayer 7:30p @Trinity

Fridays
Mom's Morning Out 9-11a
Private Absolution 3:30-4:30pm @Trinity

Daily (Mon-Fri) Matins Service 9a @Grace

Saturdays
Private Absolution @Grace 9:30-10:30a

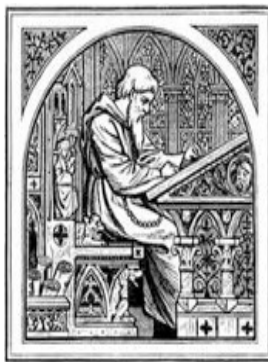


~ATTENTION LADIES!~

Bunco will be held (October 27th @Trinity), and all ladies are welcome to join. Debra Engelbrecht and Patricia VanSant will host this month. Please RSVP Patricia (210-1573) or Nikki (650-1402) or you can call the church office at 685-1571.



~HALL OF MEN~



**FOR MEN ONLY - A local fellowship hall where the men break bread, tap the keg, and toast their heroes.**

2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Eighth Day Institute at The Ladder (2836 E Douglas Ave) Doors open at 7:00pm. Food is served at 7:30pm, and evening events officially begin at 8:30pm with a hymn, the Nicene Creed, and a lecture on a hero whose life inspires us to live more authentic lives and to fight for the renewal of our culture.

**eighth day institute**

renewing culture through faith and learning  
Let us seek, let us search, let us examine, let us inquire. - St John of Damascus

~SISTERS OF SOPHIA~

**FOR WOMEN ONLY - After almost seven years of Hall of Men meetings, it is time to offer something similar for the ladies.**

*Sisters of Sophia: Inaugural Gathering*

The next meeting is October 20th.

Doors Open at The Ladder at 6:15pm, food will be served at 6:30pm, the Eighth Day Convocation will begin at 7:30pm, followed by a presentation on the poet Christian Rosetti. We'll wrap up with Q&A from 8:15-8:30pm.



For more information and to RSVP go to: <http://www.eighthdayinstitute.org/>

**Lord's Diner Tuesday, October 6, 5:30pm**

~UPCOMING FOOD HANDLER CLASS~

**2015 Food Handler Classes**

None listed for October



Please call Sheryl Parker-Gulich at 266-4966 if you have any questions.

Sunday ✕ October 25th, 2015

# Reformation Festival

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

611 S. Erie Wichita, KS

Divine Service	4:00pm
Dinner	5:30pm
Lecture	6:15pm
Close	7:30pm

Preacher/Lecturer:

**Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe**

President of the  
Concordia University System

Banquet:

**Adults: \$15**

**Couples: \$25**

**Children 10 & Under Free**

Purchase tickets at the door

*Please sign up no later than October 18*

Offerings to go toward  
Lutheran Student Center  
and the Joint Seminary Fund.

Childcare will be provided  
during the lecture.



## Reformation Sunday

# TRINITY FALL FESTIVAL

October 31

3-5 p.m.

This festival is a great way to let our light shine into the community!

Volunteers are still needed, see sign-up sheet in Narthex.



See Scott Irwin with any questions 316-648-3504



## THE MISSION FIELD

Pick up your invitation cards in the Narthex

- Invite a friend
- Invite a neighbor
- Invite someone you just met



"For by grace you have been saved through faith..." Ephesians 2:8-9

Pastor Geoffrey Boyle 611 S. Erie  
Sunday Divine Service 11AM 316.685.1571  
www.tlcwichita.org

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world...

- You can share Christ's Message with anyone •

## ~ ORATIO, MEDITATIO, TENTATIO ~

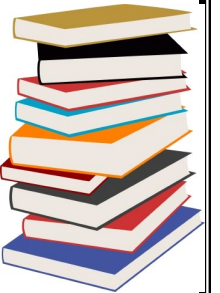
(Theological Reading Group)

### Schedule

9:00 - 9:45 am Matins  
9:45 - 11:45 am Reading Discussion  
11:45am - Noon Prayer  
Noon - 1:00 pm Lunch

### Locations

Trinity Lutheran Church 611 S. Erie, Wichita  
Grace Lutheran Church 3310 E Pawnee, Wichita



### 2014-2015 Reading Schedule:

#### October 20 (Trinity, Wichita)

Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works Vol 1: Lectures on Genesis Chapters 1-5*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1958.

#### November 17 (Grace, Wichita)

Kreeft, Peter. *Three Philosophies of Life*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.

#### December 15 (Trinity, Wichita)

O'Callaghan, Paul D. *The Feast of Friendship*. Eighth Day Press, 2007.

I DON'T ALWAYS NAIL THINGS TO CHURCH DOORS



BUT WHEN I DO, STUFF STARTS TO HAPPEN.

## ~LUTHER MOVIE NIGHT~

Join us for Movie Night, October 30th at 6pm in Trinity's old Chapel. Pizza will be ordered but feel free to bring drinks or snacks. All ages welcome!

## ~CHILDREN'S CHOIR~

Practices are now going on for our Children's Choir! Erin Kenny is the director and will be leading practices at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at Trinity Lutheran Church. If you are interested or have any questions contact Erin at: [ejkennykumc@gmail.com](mailto:ejkennykumc@gmail.com)



## ~AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM~

Trinity is now registered with the Amazon Smile program. Purchases made through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) may have a portion of the proceeds donated to Trinity. Select Trinity Lutheran Church in Wichita, KS as your charitable organization in your Amazon profile, or by using the browser link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0622407>. There is no change in selection, availability, or prices when using [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

to support Trinity through the Smile program.



## SEE THE PRETTY LITTLE POSTERS ALL OVER CHURCH?

The ones that say, "GIVE ONE DAY." They are meant to prompt giving of money, work, or time because God has redeemed our lives from sin and destruction. We are enabled to give because we have received everything from God. What needs are there? The *disabled neighbor* needs help shopping or cutting the lawn. The *church treasury* needs money to carry out ministry, worship, and outreach. A *member* needs some time from you to relieve loneliness. So many needs! Consider giving in some special way to your congregation or to an individual. The Lord has made each day....each day of salvation for his people...each day for giving as he has prospered us.

*God bless your giving!*

30 Members participated in our Spring  
"GIVE ONE DAY"  
emphasis!

ATTA GIRL! ATTA BOY!

(Let's do it again.)

in AUGUST...or SEPTEMBER...or OCTOBER

# GIVE ONE DAY

- One day's earnings...  
above your pledge
- One day's work improving  
our building and grounds
- One day (or half day!) of  
assistance to a friend or neighbor

*"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"  
Psalm 118:24*

## ~LWML NEWS~

A CHRISTIAN LIFE RETREAT will be held Nov. 6 & 7, 2015 at the DoubleTree by Hilton (2098 Airport Road) in Wichita. This retreat is sponsored by the Christian Life Committee of the KS District Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Special guest speaker is Danielle Tietjen. Time with Danielle will encourage your heart, lighten your spirit with laughter, and help fill you with ideas on how to tackle life's expectations and serving others. Friday, Nov. 6, registration begins at 5:00 p.m. and the first session will end at 9:15p.m. Sat., Nov. 7, the session begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. All women and teenagers are invited to attend. Commuter rate is \$75 (includes Sat. morning breakfast and lunch) and is due by Oct. 1. Please see Irma Quade for mail-in registration form.



### LWML FALL RALLY HERE AT TRINITY!

On Saturday, Oct. 10, Trinity Ladies Guild/Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be hosting the Wichita Zone LWML Fall Workshop. You do not have to be an LWML member to attend the event or to help with preparations beforehand. If you would like to help, please contact Vicki Lessman at 684-1367 or [vlessman@cox.net](mailto:vlessman@cox.net). The schedule for the workshop is as follows:

Cost--\$8.00 (includes lunch)

Registration: 8:45 a.m.

Opening devotions--9:00 a.m.

Closing--2:00 p.m. (An optional servant event will follow to last about 30 minutes)

RSVP by Sept. 29 to: Trinity Lutheran Office (316)685-1571 or [office@tlc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:office@tlc.kscoxmail.com)

There will be an ingathering for "Because We Care", a program for those families that are dealing with a serious health issue and are at Wesley Medical Center. Items needed are: blankets, crossword puzzles, lotions and other toiletries, pens/pencils, candy, snacks and magazines. If anyone would like to donate to this cause, there will be a box in the narthex.

Trinity Ladies Guild/Lutheran Women's Missionary League will meet Oct. 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All ladies are welcome to attend and enjoy Bible study, business meeting and fellowship.

God's Blessings, Irma

## ~2015-2016 GRACE AND TRINITY YOUTH CATECHESIS~

*Catechesis* is simply forming the faith. It's life-long. There's no *graduation* from Catechesis, though you might move from class to class along the way! What's important to realize is that Catechesis isn't just learning information. It's forming a character, a life, a human being. Yes, there's lots of information to learn and ponder; but there's also music and art and the training in virtue. Perhaps the greatest form of Catechesis doesn't even take place in the classroom, but the sanctuary, where our Lord forms us by His Word and His holy Sacraments. This catechesis continues at home around the family devotions. Our task as a Church is to encourage and promote this life-long, holistic formation of the faith that we call *Catechesis*.

Along the way of Catechesis we encounter *Confirmation*, which is the rite that celebrates and extols our catechesis for those in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. It's by no means the end, but more like a milestone along the way. Catechesis begins in the womb, hearing our Lord's Word with ears that are just developing. As we grow we learn to say back to God what He has first said to us. He never stops speaking through His Word, and we never stop hearing, learning, and speaking back to Him. Our custom at Grace and Trinity is to set Sunday evenings aside as a time for the whole family to gather around our Lord's Word and catechesis. God willing we'll offer the following classes:

**Nursery Catechesis: children 0-3 years of age**

**Primary Catechesis: ages 3-9**

**Junior Confirmation: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Confirmation: 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**High School Catechesis: 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade**

Classes: Sunday afternoon **Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015** - May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
at **Grace Lutheran Church.**

*Sunday Evening Catechesis Schedule*

3:15-4:45pm - Catechesis

5:00pm - Divine Service *\*new service time*

*We will not have classes the following dates:*

10/25 (Reformation Festival), 12/27 (Christmas/New Year's), or 3/27 (Easter)

*We will have TWO retreats:\**

Fall Retreat: October 23-24 (Fri-Sat) at the Herrington Retreat Center

Winter Lock-in: February 5-6 (Fri-Sat) at Grace Lutheran Church

*\*These retreats are for Junior Confirmation and Confirmation students only.*

*Parents, if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Pastor Boyle.*

*Examination of the Confirmands:*

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Grace, following the Pentecost Vigil Vespers.

**Confirmation Sunday: Feast of Pentecost, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016!!**

*\*New: We'll also have St. Andrews joining us, along with Pastor Duncan!\**

## ~DEAR SUPPORTERS OF SIBERIAN AND BALTIC MISSIONS~

Greetings!

This July/August I traveled to Germany, Siberia and Prague on a four-week lecture and conference tour.

While in Germany I met informally with some students at the SELK seminary in Oberursel, Germany (SELK is the independent Lutheran Church in Germany) and discussed issues of pastoral theology. I was also scheduled to meet with Frau Gertrude Roensch (widow to SELK pastor, seminary professor and visiting professor to LCMS seminaries, Prof. Manfred Roensch). However, she became ill shortly before I arrived and I was unable to visit her. I did see her daughter, Eva, and son, Rutiger, at Sunday liturgy at St. Johannesgemeinde. They passed on my wishes for her recovery and intention to meet with her on my next trip through Germany.

However, Frau Roensch went to be with her Lord two weeks later. She was to turn 81 in September. While we lived in Germany, she often invited Amy and me to her home for Sunday dinner. We also regularly sat with her during liturgy on Sunday morning when we were not traveling. She was very kind to us and spoke often about the times when her husband was a visiting professor to the St. Louis seminary. She spoke about how hospitable the American people were to her and her husband. She would tell us, "So... I want to pay back the kindness and show you German hospitality!" Having had the opportunity to know and be a frequent dinner-guest of Frau Gertrude Roensch and her daughter, Eva, and son, Rutiger, was certainly a highlight of our time spent living in Germany.

Rev. Larry Beane from Salem Lutheran Church in Gretna, Louisiana accompanied me on my recent July/August trip. He had traveled with me to Siberia in 2011 to lecture at the summer seminars. Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) invited him to return for the 2015 SELC summer theological seminars. We met at Starbucks in Frankfurt and continued to travel together until the end of the seminars in Siberia. We lectured in Ekaterinburg, Novosibirsk and Tomsk. Rev. Beane lectured on the Augsburg Confession and I lectured on the liturgical canticles in St. Luke and How to Pray the Catechism. Rev. Beane is a most popular lecturer and those who had remembered him from his 2011 lecture series were eager to hear him speak again.

This year a music seminar was added to the theological seminars. Rev. Dr. Christopher Ahlman of Leipzig, Germany was invited to give lectures, a workshop and a short recital in Novosibirsk and Tomsk. His lectures were very well received and requests have been made for him to return for future seminars or special workshops. The Siberian Lutherans are a very musically-talented people. They found Dr. Ahlman's topics to be very pertinent and interesting.

Following the seminars in Tomsk and in Novosibirsk Dr. Ahlman returned to Leipzig and Rev. Beane and I received invitations to visit various homes of the parishioners and to accompany the bishop on a home communion visit to an elderly shut-in couple. At one home, we were offered the treat of experiencing a Russian banya (a Russian steam sauna and bath) followed by a typical Siberian feast of soup, shashlik, vegetables and various Russian salads. On one occasion we were even invited to join in on a formal Siberian toast (with real Russian vodka, of course!). It was a delightful experience — which I always enjoy after two or three weeks of seminars and related travel! At other Siberian homes, we were also shown Siberian hospitality with various delicious dishes and hors d'oeuvres and stimulating conversation.

Whenever I travel to Siberia I am treated as one of them. I greatly cherish the close bonds which have nurtured over the past 16 years. "Father Larry," as he is called by the Siberian Lutherans, is no longer considered just a visitor. After two visits, he is now a friend of Siberia! This is true of many others who have traveled to Siberia to visit the congregations of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church or lecture at the summer seminars. The practice of Siberian hospitality is unique. You simply must visit Siberia to know Siberian hospitality. It cannot be described — it must be experienced!

Following the seminars and our visits to experience Siberian culture, Rev. Beane flew back to Louisiana and I flew on to Prague, Czech Republic for a five-day LCMS OIM Eurasia conference.

All of the Eurasia missionaries were invited to the conference, as well as the director of OIM, Rev. John Fale. The conference was a good opportunity for the missionary families to meet, to discuss particular challenges and express joys of the life as a missionary. Each missionary presented a 20 minute powerpoint, to the other missionaries, on the work they were doing in their assigned region. Rev. Fale introduced himself to the missionaries and spoke about OIM goals, policy and strategy. Every morning began with Matins and ended with Vespers. Various clergy in Eurasia were called upon to preach and conduct liturgy at historic St. Michael's Church. Dr. Ahlman even played organ for several of the Office liturgies. The food was good and the beer was a real treat! Sightseeing and a river cruise were also squeezed into the week.

In the attached newsletter you will view photographs of my trip to Germany, Siberia and Prague.

Your ongoing support, by way of prayers and financial assistance, is much appreciated and needed. Even though it is less expensive to my donors for me to live in Iowa and commute to my assigned territories, than it was to live in Germany, my ongoing work in Eurasia remains dependent on donor support. I thank you!

Pax,

Dan

Rev. Daniel S. Johnson

LCMS OIM Catechist to Eurasia

+1 641 328 4605 (USA mobile)