

Daniel S. Johnson

- Catechist to Siberia & Baltic Churches

Garbė Dievui aukštybėse

ὁ πιστεύσας καὶ βαπτισθεὶς σωθήσεται

Χριστὸς ἠνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν!

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SELC conducts seminar on Reformation Heritage

Lutheran Theological Seminary of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) conducted a "Reformation Heritage" Conference on November 1-3 in Novosibirsk, Russia. I was invited to lecture at this seminar on the topic of "Christology

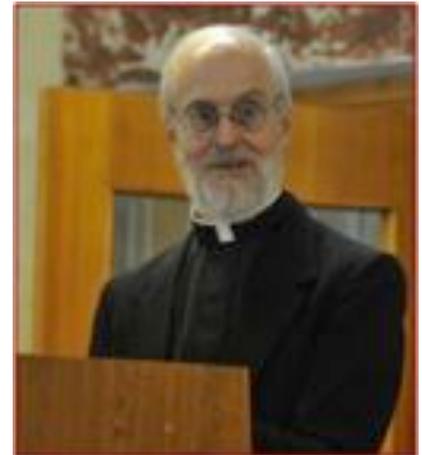
in the First Table of Luther's Small Catechism - A Pastor's Perspective"

There were 45 participants at the conference including clergy and laity from Siberia, Ural region, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, among them the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kazakhstan, Yury Novgorodov, who spoke about the situation with the Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan. Other lectures delivered were: Andrey Lipnitsky's treatment of "Luther's Theological Testament"; Pavel Khramov's presentation on "Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ: Theological and Political Issues of the Reformation"; Alexey Streltsov spoke on the topic of "Repentance as Christian Life in Lutheran Theology"; Pavel Butakov delivered a lecture on "Soteriological Principle in Christian Philosophy"; and Alan Ludwig provided an historical review of the Formula of Concord, articles 7 and 8, "Luther, Melancton, Brenz, Chemnitz, and FC VII-VIII"

The conference was a great blessing for the Church in Siberia. One of the participants coming from Beloretsk (a city in the Bashkortostan Republic) said, "The Conference, which was held in Novosibirsk on November 1-3, which I was able to attend, left the best impressions and unforgettable delight in my soul. Interesting topics dedicated to the Reformation Day and covered from different angles by the presenters, moved me to return once again to the study of the Lutheran Confessions. Friendly, brotherly atmosphere of good will and concord among gathered people was likewise pleasant."

Bishop Novgorod (Kazakhstan) was most impressed on how all of the

papers delivered, expressed a common theology. Rector Alexey Streltsov responded that when the participants all subscribe to the same confessional documents (The Lutheran Confessions of 1580) and to a common expression of that confession, in liturgical life, then **continued on the next page**



Professor Alan Ludwig, a fulltime instructor at Lutheran Theological Seminary - Novosibirsk, deployed by the LCMS OIM

Church officials from the Lithuanian, Latvian and Siberian Lutheran churches frequently visit the United States. If you wish to invite one of these church officials to visit your congregation, please contact me at:

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Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

Many Siberian pastors serve multiple congregation parishes. Pray for safe travel as these dedicated clergy travel to provide care for their parishioners. Also, pray for the laity as they travel to attend liturgy.

Pray for the Siberian catechumens as they learn the Christian vocation.

Pray for the faith and perseverance of the Siberian people as they are confronted with the dangers of an increasingly secular culture.

By Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter...

*Help us, good Lord.
-- The Litany*

they will naturally express a “common theology” in their academic pursuits. What this reveals to me is that the SELC has matured rapidly under consistent Lutheran catechesis. The laity asked



Rev. D.S. Johnson with Rector A. Streltsov

thoughtful and probing questions and demonstrated a deep respect for their clergy. This is indicative of a church body well-catechized in the doctrine and praxis of the church.

Within the seminar we gathered for matins and vespers. On Friday evening we celebrated the Feast of All Saints Day, receiving Holy Communion as SELC Bishop, Vsevolod Lytkin, presided as celebrant and preacher.

Following the Novosibirsk conference, I left for Lithuania where I attended a pastors’ conference and presented a lecture on the theology of mission, along with Rev. Dr. Charles Evanson. Following the conference in Lithuania, Dr. Evanson and I traveled to Oberursel, Germany to attend a theological conference at the Independent Germany Lutheran Church (SELK) seminary. Nine professors from Concordia Seminary – St. Louis had been invited to attend the conference along with 60 other guests from Brazil, South Africa, Belgium, Czech Republic, Philippines and Lithuania. Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt of the SELK gave greetings to the conference and lectures from SELK and LCMS professors were delivered and discussed.

What I continue to learn from my travels, is that even though the need for consistent and quality catechesis exists in every church in all parts of Eurasia, there is an increasing need for all confessing Lutherans to unite in a common effort to catechize and assist one another in confronting the assaults of pagan Islam and godless secularism. “...Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” “... И не введи нас в искушение, но избавь нас от лукавого.” ❖ DSJ

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Participants came from Siberia, Germany, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan



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