

# Daniel S. Johnson

## - Catechist to Siberia & Baltic Churches

Garbė Dievui aukštybėse

ὁ πιστεύσας καὶ βαπτισθεὶς σωθήσεται

Χριστὸς ἠνέστη!

November 2014



### LCMS OIM missionary awarded the Silver Cross of St. Nicholas II

On August 3, 2014, during the Sunday liturgy, at the Church of St. Andrew, in Novosibirsk, Russia (Siberia), Rev. Daniel S. Johnson was awarded the "Silver Cross" by the bishop of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vsevolod Lytkin. Johnson then preached the morning sermon.



Rev. Johnson preaches at St. Andrew Lutheran Church – Novosibirsk, Russia (Siberia)

In the LCMS, pastors are given a stole during their ordination. In the Lutheran Churches in the territories under the former Russian Empire, a Silver Cross was awarded at ordination. However, the Silver Cross is not only given at a pastor's ordination but is also awarded by the bishops to pastors outside the Russian Empire, as a recognition of faithful and distinguished service to the church.



The silver cross of St. Nicholas II, awarded to pastors serving in Churches in territories of the Russian Empire.

This tradition began with the last tsar, Nicholas II, who awarded a silver cross to every priest in the Russian Empire. Even after the fall of the Romanov dynasty, the practice of awarding the Silver Cross to pastors at their ordination has continued. This practice helped to distinguish priests from deacons or monks, all of whom wore the same type of cassock, and were otherwise



The congregation in Tuim gathers for tea and cakes following liturgy. This is a regular practice among SELC congregations.

indistinguishable when not vested. The practice of bestowing the silver pectoral cross on pastors serving in the Russian Empire and continuing to present times has been a long-standing practice, also among Lutherans. The Silver Cross is not enameled or decorated in any manner except for engraving or relief. To be awarded the Silver Cross gives that pastor all the privileges and authority associated with serving in that

continued on the next page

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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 Lutheran catechumens throughout the world as they learn the Christian vocation.

*To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed. ...We implore You...*

*To hear us, good Lord. -- The Litany*

bishop’s church territory. When Bishop Lytkin bestowed the Silver Cross, he commented that Pastor Johnson, as a liaison from the LCMS, has been a "faithful servant of the Gospel and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church." He spoke about Rev. Johnson’s work with the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) and the Russian Project (CTS) and present work as a catechist with The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod Office of International Mission (LCMS OIM).

Following the bestowal of the Silver Cross during the morning liturgy a dinner followed. Rev. Johnson, Rev Pavel Khramov (far right in photo) and Rev. Alexey Streltsov (second from right in photo) lectured at the annual theological seminar held at the seminary.



**Rev. Johnson with Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin and clergy of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Novosibirsk, Russia (Siberia)**

Notice in the photo, all of the ordained pastors are presented with the same "silver cross." However, Bishop Lytkin’s cross is gold. The



**An altar in a home church, created from a kitchen table. There are many SELC home churches in the eastern regions of Siberia where the bishop or pastor visits.**

**Gold Cross** is a simple "gold cross," similar to the Silver Cross, reserved for the use by bishops within the church. It is also without enameling or other decoration. The Gold Cross is worn by bishops, as a mark of their office -- the same as the Silver Cross which represents the holy office of pastor. Rev. Johnson, (and all clergy bearing the Silver Cross), is now expected to wear the Silver Cross whenever he is vested in alb and stole in the exercise of his pastoral duties within the Lutheran Church. ✠ **DSJ**



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