ЕВАНГЕЛИЧЕСКО - ЛЮТЕРАНСКАЯ ОБЩИНА г. САРАТОВА

EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CHURCH SARATOV

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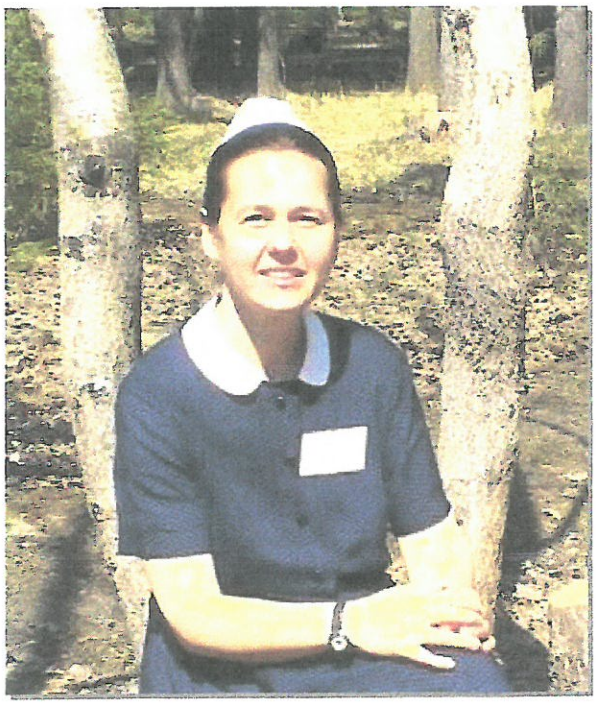
Report March 2014

New employee in our Priory

This woman's name is Sister Maren, our deaconess. She's been less than a month in our community and now it is difficult to imagine without she.

Sister Maren was born on 22 March 1970 in East Berlin. She grew up in a Christian family, she was the youngest of four children (three older brothers). Her father - a preacher and pastor, on was responsible for all country Ecclesiastical Communities in the GDR. The mother, a nurse as profession, devoted her time and energy aware for her children and family. The children were raised in a sheltered Christian home. The parents were an example of Christian family life. It formed and shaped them. But Maren knew that she had to make one's own important decisions. In a socialist country as a Christian and on top daughter of a pastor the higher education was not allowed. Nevertheless, she enjoyed the time in the children's and youth groups of the church, attended the christian religious instruction and confirmation classes in the Protestant church. Other special events of her childhood were the Christian children's and youth camps.



During a youth camp she gave her heart Jesus Christ and she decided aware at the age of 15 to become a child of God.

After the school, Sister Maren began at age 16 years a 4 years training as a nurse at Deaconess Motherhouse "Neuvandsburg" Elbingerode. That was already strange for she - more than 250 km away from home in a boarding school, which was led by deaconesses. The students in the boarding school, whether boys or girls, were ordinary people: there they had lots of fun and cracked a lot of jokes. During her training, Sister Maren became clear that it was the desire of jesus for her life to live as a deaconess for HIM. So she became deaconess at age 20 years shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany. The possibilities of the new freedoms in the unified Germany put the appointment of Sister Maren to the proof shortly before her entry into the sisterhood.

Living as a deaconess has many faces. The sisters even put it this way:

- We know called by God into the deaconess house.
- We see our Community as an opportunity and a challenge. Liabilities and connectedness have to be regulated.
- Faith in God we bear witness in word and deed.
- We want to live in obedience.
- The celibate lifestyle is a decision that has grown out of relationship with God.
- We wear a nurse's uniform – if possible.
- Finance plays not a significant role.

What Sister Maren has done in recent years? She proclaims the word of God in various communities. She worked in internships with drug addicts and prostitutes. Sister Maren founded and designed in community theater work. She completed a 3-year theological education including practical work year in which she led a community. She was responsible for 7 years as a youth adviser of Elbingeröder Youth Association "Dedicated to Christ" and was part of the leadership team of a community center in the region of Chemnitz. "The work with the young people was very cheerful, honest, challenging and creative and required the full commitment of time and effort," says Sister Maren herself. The Christian service there enriched Maren and gave her invaluable experience.
In 2005 there was a new milestone in the life of Sister Maren. She was sent to Moscow, where she was in service for 8 years. The relocation to Saratov – for she it was of course a big change and a new experience in comparison to Moscow. But she applied oneself in our community passionately and wholehearted, as if she had always been here!
We wish our wonderful Sister Maren God's blessing and grace of God!

Church construction

In April, we experienced a miracle of God. For years we have begun to install the large windows for our church hall. But it lacked funding, whereby the installation progressed slowly. Until recently, were still missing 10 of the 16 large windows. In April this year happened a miracle - a person donated 4,500€ for the remaining 10 windows.
Now all windows are installed and it is a very different view from the outside and from inside. The wind no longer blows in the hall and the space become more and more similar to a community hall. Now we are able to plan the next building steps and we praying for the next miracle of God. Many thanks to all those who think of us in prayer!

We are thankful	We ask Prayer
• For the service of Sister Maren • For the donation and installation of the windows	• For the service of Sister Maren • For the Church construction and the Church funding

People who want to support our work financially, please use the following bank details:
Stiftung Marburger Mission, Evangelische Kreditgenossenschaft Kassel, BLZ 520 604 10, Konto Nr. 202 126; Purpose Please note exactly on bank transfer slip. (e.g. Work Scheiermann- or Church Construction Saratov).

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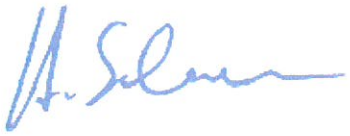
For all those who want support our work, I will ask to transfer on the following account:
In USA: First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach and Preschool of Richmond Beach, 18354 – 8th Ave. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177-7398; with the mark: **For the ministry of the church in Saratov.** Tel.: 206 546 4153; Fax: 206 546 6741S;

The Lord bless You,

Alexander Scheiermann