



## Evangelical- Lutheran Church of Saratow

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### Report of Summer 2014

#### Reed (2-11 July)

When my colleagues and many of my friends heard that I decided to spend a big time of my holiday by canoeing down the River Wolga, most of them shook their heads. Some of them laughed and some others advised me to stay at home. Because there's a fact: I can't even swim – and I'm also afraid of water.

But I finally took my choice. Because of our 10 years old son my husband also agreed to take part in the canoe tour lasting ten days. Normally he's an opponent of extreme recovery. But we wanted to train the development of our sons character on this journey. We were totally convinced that we won't need this, only our son.

On the first day I already realized I had been wrong. This tour would be good both for me and my husband and also for our son.



Not only in the boat, also during our rests on land we were a family and a team. In the canoe we had to follow the comments of our captain ( Papa ). Landing on the shore we had to unload the boat, prepare our tent, light a fire and help the others.

On our journey there were a lot of different and unforgettable moments: The fantastic view to the Shiguli( the mountains next to the Middle-Wolga region), talks and discussions with our companions etc.

But there was one incident, a real incident, that happened on the last day of our tour – we were getting into a storm. Actually, the main thing happening wasn't the storm – some days before we had been thrilled, too. The Hero in this situation was our God, having everything in his hands.

We calmly swum on one of those little confluents of the Wolga on this last day. Now we reached the huge river bed. Here a harsh and strong wind blew into our faces. To me it seemed, like giant waves – back and forth and up and down – would have surround our boat.

On the other side of the river you already could see the little village where our journey should have end. We canoed intensely. The wind, blew against us, was so strong, it seems that we were canoeing at the same place all time. I thought: We're canoeing for hours and nothing really happens! We were still at the same place! The other boats on the left and behind ourselves were hardly to identify.

It was astonishing but I wasn't afraid of drowning in this moment. I only thought about, how to overcome this storm, this windstorm. I was afraid, that the current would drift our canoe to the shore and we would had wait for days.

For the first time I began to pray ( I actually should have began earlier but ... ) So I didn't unhand my paddle, I was canoeing all of my strength and was praying at the same time. It came to my mind that God now would calm the storm how it was written in the bible. But the time went by – and the storm was still there. Then I thought: Maybe I would get own powers to overcome this last part of our way. Nothing like this happened! Probably even God was on vacation?



On the right hand side of our canoe there was a small Island with a lot of reed on the shore. By chance I took a look in this direction and ... how wonder! In fact we wasn't still at the same place! The reed had moved to our direction! Of course we had moved. Maybe slowly but we had been in moving the whole time long. While I was thinking about where my God has been gone, he was acting. Maybe not the way I have expected but the way he decided to act.

Now there's a very stressful time again in our family. My husband and me have to – how to say in Russia “spin like the squirrels in the wheel”: The work, the school, dancing, soccer and again the work. But every time when I'm so abnormally tired, I remember “God's Reed”. I believe that, if God is sitting in our “boat of life” together with us, we will never stand still in one place but we will moving forwards every time.

Elena Schumakova

### Visiting JagodnajaPolana

On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 we – our Provost Alexander Scheiermann, Preacher Andrej Djamgarow, our Volunteer Ferdinand with his parents Johannes and Ilka and me – visited the parish of JagodnajaPolana.



Just in the beginning, after a very friendly welcome, Ferdinand reported on his work as a volunteer at our church in Saratow and about the connection of his family and Russia. His father Johannes told us, how God has saved him in his life and how he decided to serve at the Lutheran Church in Germany.

The family von Kymmel is a musical treasure. By their singing everything in this little hut got a wonderful shine.

It was a good idea to take this “untiringly trinity” with us to JagodnajaPolana. Why “untiringly”? It's easy: The von Kymmels are a family, looking untiringly at Christ, learning by his love, passing his grace to other people. Thank you so much for that!

Furthermore Andrej Djamgarov preached about how to exemplify Christianity to the youth through one's own life.

The assiduous sisters took care of our physical well-being laid the table by delicious dishes. In the countryside everything is more tasty. Everything is natural! During the meal Sister Taisja told the guest hard times of her life. By her example we could learn how to trust in God even in hard times.

We also had come to repair the small stair in front of the entrance. The Brothers had brought some tools and materials. With the help of Gods love it succeeded. The stairs were new and solid again. Thank you very much for this work.



When me had to leave, the old woman waved to us. Her eyes were shining with joy and love. All of of this truly has been living our faith: If the youth will visit the elder people and help them, if th elder people will pray for the youth and understand their problems – so also in the next generation the love of the Lord will reign among the people.

In Jesus Christ

AleksandrDeriugin

### News in a few lines

**New post address:  
Evangelical Lutheran Chruch of St. Mary Saratow  
BolschajaSadowaja  
410004 Saratow  
Russia**



On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 on the wall of the building of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mary the official post address appeared.

## Our Testing

In the night between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1024 unmasked guests broke into our church. They stole different sound equipment, the sound mixer and amplifier such as an unknown sum of money out of the collect. The police searches for them, but we already know that the judgment is waiting for the thieves – if it isn't the human judgment on earth, so it is still the heavenly – that's for sure! For ourselves those material things doesn't count, but the expiration of the robbers. It's more important that they will be aware of the alive God and let Him into their hearts.



### We thanking for

- the work of Sister Maren
- the donation and the new windows

### We pray for

- the work of Sister Maren
- the building of our church and the funding

**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 – 8<sup>th</sup> 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