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Evangelical- Lutheran Church of Saratow

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Report October

A brave Decision

It's wonderful to canoe on the river – and interesting; especially, if it is the popular and abounding in water Wolga. It's lovely, if there's standing a tendnearthe shore, a bonfire is burning and there are brothers and sisters sitting around it. Somebody is reading something out of the bible and we're talking about a special passage in the text.

Later when the sun comes down, also the children are coming to the bonfire. But mostly they don't take part in the conversation. But of course there are exclusions: I remember when WanjaKomarbarged into the discussion. At that time he wasn't even ten years old.

He very seriously explained us that he really likes the stories about Jesus Christ and that he gladly reads them. A little while after that he asked us, if it's possible that we may baptize him.

"Of course!" we answered him. "When we are back in Saratow we will speak more about it". Furthermore we didn't spoke about that topic.

One year passed. Again we were canoeing. Canoeing down the river, being together around the bonfire, reading the bible, praying together and alone. Also this year Wanja took part in this canoe tour. He ran, played, laughed just like the other children. One day he came



to me and without saying anything more he asked me the same question: "When can I become baptized? I want to get baptized!" What could we do? If there are infants, the parents bring their children to church. But if there are adults, they first take part in the confirmation classes and only after this they're getting baptized. For the confirmation it was too early yet. What should we do in this case? But in case of such a firm resolution...? Even when we came back to Saratow, Wanja didn't want to change his mind. After he received the consent to get baptized he chose his own bible verse and his

godfathers.

The day, Wanja was getting baptized, wasn't only a holyday for Wanja himself, but also for the whole parish. By this ,Wanja also became an example for some adults, didn't want to get baptized, yet.

A strong faith and a brave decision!

Andrej Dzhamgarov

Weprayfor:

- Wanja to grove in his faith
- also for Wanjas relatives

We'rethankfullfor:

- Wanja that he made this decision
- that also Wanja's mother now comes to our services

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

