



Местная религиозная организация  
ЕВАНГЕЛИЧЕСКО-ЛЮТЕРАНСКАЯ ОБЩИНА  
г. САРАТОВА

The Local Religions Organization  
EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN  
CONGREGATION OF SARATOV

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## Report on September and October 2015



### The old church in Sorkino

The grand opening and the sanctification of the Jesus Christ Redeemer Church in Sorkino (Marks, region Saratow) took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The history of this church is really interesting. During the Soviet Union the church was more or less destroyed and three years ago the church was rebuilt by means of a Russian sponsor. His father grew up in a German colony in Zurich. The village Sorkino got the name “German colony” until 1942.

“A few years ago my father died. After the funeral I found old photos and I realised that I do not know very much about the history of my family. I started to search for information and that’s why I got the idea to rebuild the church.” This told us Karl Loor a businessman from Belgorod.

The Jesus Christ Redeemer Church in the colony in Zurich was built in 1877 by the German architect Johann Jakobstahl. It was an exactly copy of the Lutheran church St. Maria in Saratov, which was destroyed in 1970. Around 1930 the church was at first used as a store and further as a club. At the beginning of the reorganization in the church there were only the tree-infested walls.

The reconstruction of the building began in 2013. The date of the dedication – the 3<sup>rd</sup> October – was not a random one. On this day the jubilee of 25 years German reunification was celebrated.

Close to the church we can find a little hotel today.

More than 500 people took part in the opening exercises. Even the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran



Church in Russia Dietrich Brauer and pastors from Germany, USA and Brazil took part in the event. The first child was baptised in the church by Dietrich Brauer after the sanctification of the church.

The pastors from Saratov will probably lead the services in the new church. In the church there is also a cultural centre.

### **Evangelisation in the village Lipowka**



The village is 110 km away from Saratov and belongs to the region of Marx. Around 1122 people live in Lipowka and there is a small Lutheran church. From the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 4<sup>th</sup> October we had a seminar there. Our topic was “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

Pastor Donald Richman (USA) held a sermon and pastor Oziel Campus told some stories out of his life. Also other guests talked about their life and how they started to believe. For example Alexander Derjugin talked about that he hadn't find the sense of

life for a very long time. He was interested in gothic and this was also the main part of his spiritual life. But God helped him to see the beauty of Gods world. He found the faith in Jesus and a new way for his life.

A group of the church presented some plays based on the bible. On one evening they showed the story of a man who went to heaven after he died. An angle asked him if he has a voucher to pay for his sins. Unfortunately he didn't remember on something like this in his life. Unfortunately he didn't know that Jesus is such a voucher who paid for our sins. We believe that we have to confess our sins and that Jesus forgives our sins.

All these plays were really good taken. Youths came and asked if they can show something like this more often. After that they had the possibility to talk about God and to pray together.

Around 40 listeners took part in the events. Please pray that they will come to church and grow up in faith.



## Conference

In September we organized a conference for pastors in Saratov. Nine pastors from the west of Russia and two foreign pastors took part in the conference. For the first time pastor Oziel Campus joined us. He comes from the Lutheran Church Santa Caterina in Brazil.

The topic of the conference was: "Pastor, who is loved by God". We discussed together and heard different lectures. Pastor Oziel thought with us about the picture of God as the father. There was quickly an atmosphere of familiarity and openness because of his experience of life.

Pastor Donald Richmond is with his 82 years a fighter and a real role model. He talked with us about the bad roots of our hearts. This was a really current topic for some of us because this lames our power in our ministry.

Our church is not finished yet, but because of the conference we completed a few rooms. Some of our guests could stay there. The service was also very good. Our staff member



Alexander Derjugin prepared very delicious meals for us. Therefore we had a lot of time to pray and talk together.



### **Building of the church**

In October we could finish a long planned work. We made the ground and the isolation, because of the help of the “Martin Luther Bund”. We are really happy that the heating system in the big hall in the church functions and exists. Furthermore we have to fettle the walls and tile the floor. After that we can celebrate the service in our big hall. We are looking really forward to finish that work.

<u>We pray for</u>	<u>We thank for</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the participants of the seminar</li><li>• the pastors of the conference</li><li>• the further building of the church</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the blessed seminar</li><li>• the conference</li><li>• the heating system in the church</li></ul>

**If somebody would like to give funds he may send to:**

**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 6741;

May the Lord bless you,  
Alexander Scheiermann

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Scheiermann", enclosed in a rectangular box.