

2007 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

Greetings from Bishop Springer

Bishop Siegfried Springer, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia (ELCER), brought greetings to the 2007 Synod Assembly. Bishop Springer shared thoughts concerning the Church in Russia.

First, he thanked the Synod for taking the initiative to help the Church in Russia through the efforts of many of our congregations who have responded to the Team Russia effort. This assistance is still very necessary. Church leaders in Russia are not financially rewarded, but are involved because of their love of God. While 15 years ago there were only 10 churches, now there are 140 congregations. This effort is possible because God has grown the seed planted by those dedicated to this mission. The seed “falls into the human heart and the work grows due to a miracle of God.”

The success of the church is also due to the work of lay leadership because of the limited number of available pastors.

Bishop Springer shared that the work of the church in Russia faces several challenges. First, smaller congregations need our care. They find it harder to take care of their needy. Second, smaller churches are served by traveling pastors who need cars to get from one congregation to another and cars are expensive. Third, although the “harvest is plentiful” the workers needed to reap the harvest are few.

Bishop Springer thanked us for our open hearts and continual support of the church in Russia. He invites us all to travel there so that we may see that all that he says is true.

(The Northwest Washington Synod is in companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia. ELCER is one of the “synods” within Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia and Other States.)