



Pray For Us Calendar

The following prayer requests were submitted to LCMS World Mission by your coworkers in the Lord's mission around the world. Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution.

RUSSIA – FEBRUARY 1-29 The LCMS has been involved in Russia for 18 years — almost since the fall of the Soviet Union. Today, the LCMS is in altar and pulpit fellowship with two Russian church bodies. Three LCMS missionary families carry out witness and mercy ministry in Russia.

Remember the Lord's work in Russia as you pray:

1. *with thanksgiving for the open doors to the Gospel* that the Lord has provided in Russia — especially since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. Pray that this broader religious freedom continues for years to come.

2. *with thanks to God for sustaining His Church, despite persecution, through the Soviet era in Russia.* Many surviving Lutherans can share stories of family members, or even personal stories, involving suffering and hardship for the sake of the Gospel.

3. *for missionaries Rev. Jon and Julie Muhly, who serve in Russia and other former Soviet republics.* Pray for the Lord to richly bless their work, as well as their growing family, which includes two sons and two twin daughters.

4. *with missionary Rev. Matthew Heise, who supports partner church bodies, leaders and new believers throughout Eurasia through providing theological education and leadership training.* Pray for Matt's safety as he travels throughout this vast region, and that he would not grow weary, but would be encouraged in his ministry.

5. *for missionary Rev. Alan Ludwig, who serves in Novosibirsk, Russia, alongside the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC).* Alan teaches at Lutheran Theological Seminary, training pastors and other leaders for service in the SELC.

6. *for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia, which is based heavily in western Russia and includes 80 congregations.*

7. *with thanks for the 400 years that God has faithfully accompanied and protected the ELCIR.* Pray that its congregations and members will

continue to boldly proclaim God's love in Jesus Christ, serve their neighbors and serve each other.

8. *for the ministry of the Theological Institute of the ELCIR, which is located in Koltushi, Russia, outside of St. Petersburg.* It offers courses for people working with youth, Sunday schools, music, diaconal work and those working towards the Bachelor of Divinity degree.

9. *for the 16 full-time students studying in the Bachelor of Divinity program at the ELCIR seminary.* Give thanks to God that they have answered His call to serve as pastors, and ask Him to bless them with perseverance and retention of all that they learn through the program.

10. *for Dr. Alexander Prilutsky, who was recently named as the new rector of the seminary.* May God grant him wisdom and humility as he leads.

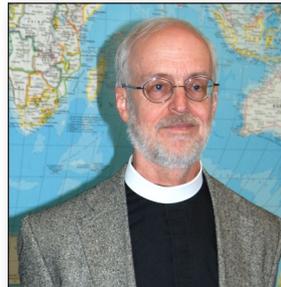
11. *for Bishop Arri Kugappi, who serves as president of the ELCIR.* Ask the Lord to grant him wisdom and humility and to encourage Him through His Word daily as he leads this church body.

12. *for the outreach efforts of all ELCIR congregations, including St. Michael's Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg.* St. Michael's welcomes hundreds of people through its doors on a weekly basis, with ministries ranging from Gospel-centered musical concerts, to HIV/AIDS ministry, to regular

seminars for those interested in learning more about the Bible and more.

13. *with thanksgiving for for the LCMS pastors who have worked with ELCIR pastors over the years, including a recent group who visited and encouraged pastors in the Siberian District.* Pray that these times of fellowship, training and mutual learning will strengthen all involved.

14. *that God would bless the ministry of Hope Counseling Center in St. Petersburg, Russia, which is supported by the LCMS.* Operated by the ELCIR, Hope provides grace-filled light and hope to women and families who are facing difficult situations in a society plagued by divorce, substance abuse and unexpected pregnancies.



Involvement Ideas



- Support missionaries who serve the people of Russia and the two LCMS partner churches there, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church. To search for their prayer cards and online giving pages by name, visit www.lcms.org/prayercards.

- Learn more about LCMS witness and mercy work in Russia at www.lcms.org/russia.

- Support a mission or mercy project in Russia! Visit <http://lcms.org/givenow> to search for opportunities.

Photo: LCMS missionaries who serve in Russia, clockwise from top left: Rev. Alan Ludwig; Rev. Matthew Heise; Rev. Jon and Julie Muhly and family



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15. for the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC), which is based in central Russia and includes 16 congregations and missions throughout Russia.

16. for Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin and other leaders of the SELC, as they guide this church body and make decisions about its direction and the training of future leaders.

17. with thanksgiving that God has brought the Gospel to the Russian people in Siberia through the SELC. This church body is ethnically Russian and Russian-speaking, made up almost entirely of people who have no ethnic Lutheran heritage.

18. that God would grant strong fellowship and encouraging ties between the congregations of the SELC, which often are separated by hundreds of miles in an area where travel is difficult for most of the harsh winter.

19. that God would call more men to study for the pastoral ministry at the ELCIR seminary in Koltushi and the SELC seminary in Novosibirsk, so that more congregations may be led by a trained pastor, and more churches might

be planted in areas where no Lutheran congregation currently exists.

20. that the Lord would continue to provide expanded opportunities for partnership in theological education among the LCMS, the SELC, the ELCIR and other church bodies—so that more leaders can be firmly rooted in Lutheran doctrine and for the mutual enrichment and encouragement of teachers and students.

21. with thanksgiving for the short-term theological educators who have served in various capacities over the years at the seminaries in Koltushi and Novosibirsk.

22. for Rev. Oleg Sevastyanov and his mission work on behalf of the ELCIR in the Estonian border town of Narva — may God's Word proclaimed work faith in the hearts of those who hear the Gospel.

23. for the district presidents of the seven districts of the ELCIR — for wisdom and guidance as they lead their districts.

24. that God would guide, bless, protect and strengthen the faith of the newly baptized and confirmed children and adults in the SELC.

25. that the Lord would encourage the members of the SELC who live in impoverished towns and villages and bring them comfort through the peace that passes all understanding.

26. for the continued spread of the Gospel among university students at Novosibirsk State University, one of the major centers of higher education in Russia.

27. for all Russian people who are affected by depression, loneliness, alcoholism, post-abortion syndrome and more. Pray that those who do not yet know Jesus Christ would come to faith, and would find peace and restoration in His forgiveness.

28. that Lutheran believers would be courageous and loving in sharing the Gospel with the growing Muslim population in Russia. Currently, between 6 and 14 percent of Russia's population practices Islam.

29. that God would use the ELCIR and the SELC to reach more of Russia's ethnic minorities — many of whom are growing quickly in number — with the Gospel of Christ. Many of these people groups are less-reached with the Gospel than ethnic Russians.



Photo:
Young boys in a rural Russian town show off their Sunday school materials, provided by the LCMS.

Missionary & Personnel Birthdays

Missionary & personnel prayer cards may be downloaded from the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/prayercards.

- Feb. 4** Shara Cunningham, South Africa
- Feb. 6** Susan Fluegge, South Africa; Matt Wasmund, South Korea
- Feb. 8** Radka Fiala, Slovakia; Hanna Hartman, Southeast Asia; Christel Neuendorf, Dominican Republic
- Feb. 9** Danelle Putnam, Dominican Republic
- Feb. 10** Eric Semler, Asia; Marla Steenbock, Germany
- Feb. 11** Tim Heiney, Guinea
- Feb. 15** Michael Weider, Southeast Asia
- Feb. 16** Cindy Rodewald, South Africa
- Feb. 22** Tim Norton, Guinea
- Feb. 27** Zeal Beale, South Africa
- Feb. 28** Stephanie Magee, Czech Republic
- Feb. 29** Bob Flohrs, Germany

Military chaplains with birthdays in February:

Chaplain Lynn Christensen, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory; Chaplain Matthew Christensen, Fort Riley, Kan.; Chaplain Dann Ettner, Moffett Army Air Base, Calif.; Chaplain Michael Frese, Fort Knox, Ky.; Chaplain Charles Mallie, Greece; Chaplain Wayne Olson, Northport, N.Y.; Chaplain Christopher Otten, Fort Hood, Texas

