MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to SHARE the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ wherever we are called, and PLANT CHURCHES wherever He directs us to do so, and manifest His MERCY, throughout the Eurasia region.

VISION STATEMENT

The LCMS OIM Eurasia Mission seeks to create and support a seamlessly connected regional network of confessional Lutheran partners united in mission and values to PLANT CHURCHES and WITNESS to the Gospel and show MERCY in connection with our work in establishing congregations and church bodies connected to Christ’s mission on earth. We will over the next five years enable mission partner churches to reach thousands of souls with the Good News of Jesus Christ in greater than 30 countries in Eurasia, with the help of God.

CORE VALUES

The LCMS OIM—EURASIA MISSION emphasizes the following five Core Values:

1. **Fidelity**—Being fully and joyfully Lutheran
2. **Excellence**—Pursuing the highest quality work through Word and deed
3. **Credibility**—Inspiring belief in Jesus Christ through our faith
4. **Sustainability**—Providing missionary care and enduring financial support to all missionary stakeholders
5. **Stability**—Planning to stand firm in the faith by relying on God’s gifts, wisdom and strength
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BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN SUBREGION

- Alliance Missionary Rev. Sorin Horia Trifa
- Serving the Balkan-Mediterranean Subregion
- Church plants currently in Romania, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria
- Project covers the cost of church plant needs plus travel and incidental costs
SUMMARY

This project supports provides Alliance Missionary, Rev. Sorin Trifa’s efforts within Eurasia’s Balkan-Mediterranean Subregion. The Balkan-Mediterranean subregion is a mission field which spans the geographic area from the Baltic to the Mediterranean seas and presently includes Romania, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria, with a goal for expansion into Portugal. This is the land in which the Roman Empire existed two millennia ago. It is the land of the Holy Apostles and a place watered with the blood of the martyrs of Christ in the first Centuries. But the Balkan-Mediterranean subregion is spiritually dominated by Churches in which the Gospel of Christ is no longer proclaimed as a means of grace, but as a tool of the Law. Because of this, millions of Christians in this region live their lives in spiritual despair, trying desperately to find their way to salvation guided by the Law, and not by the Gospel.

Rev. Trifa planted the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Romania in Bucharest and later expanded his church plant into Suceava (Romania). He continues sowing new congregations in Romania, such as the latest plant in Cluj-napoca, Transylvania. Through his zeal and ability afforded by the Holy Spirit, Trifa has helped the Eurasia region to branch out from Romania to new mission fields further west and south within the Balkan-Mediterranean sub-region. Church plants have begun in Italy (Rome, Padova, Abruzzo), Bulgaria (Sofia) and Greece (Thessaloniki). Next year, Trifa will also expand into Portugal. As Rev. Trifa continues to plant confessional Lutheran churches in other countries within the Balkan-Mediterranean subregion, local pastors and missionaries will be also be needed in those new locations. Through Trifa’s mentoring, six men from the Balkan-Mediterranean subregion have already come forward to begin theological studies at the Riga Luther Academy (seminary) in Latvia in hopes of becoming confessional Lutheran pastors over the next four years, with a specific goal of serving these new church plants within the Balkan-Mediterranean subregion. 

Our annual need for this project is $50,000.

Balkan-Mediterranean Subregion - Project ID: CE0001-63101

Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
ALLIANCE MISSIONARY

CZECH REPUBLIC

Project ID: CZ0001-64503

- Church planting and building congregations in the Czech Rep.
- Spreading the Gospel of Christ in Olomouc
- Encourages, supports, offers prayer and divine services
- Covers full cost of travel, housing and meals, and incidental costs
This project supports Rev. David Jurech, a pastor of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic (ECAVvČR). Pr. Jurech was instrumental in church planting in the Czech Republic after the overthrow of the communist regime in then Czechoslovakia. He worked closely with OIM Eurasia Regional Director, Rev. James Krikava, while serving as a missionary in the Czech lands during the decades following the Velvet Revolution. After his theological study at Charles’ University and his ordination into the preaching office, he worked with pastor Krikava in building six mission congregations planted in Plzeň, Prague, and Brno. He also founded Lutherova Společnost (the Luther Society), an organization dedicated to translating and publishing solid confessional Lutheran works (over 40 publications) in the Czech language and sponsoring regular theological conferences for Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Ukrainians, Russians, Romanians, Germans, and others. Rev. Jurech is prepared to expand the spreading of the Gospel of Christ to the city of Olomouc in the northern Moravian part of the Czech Republic. He continues to draw the ECAVvČR ever closer to the LCMS with the hope of one day establishing full church fellowship between these two churches.

Our annual need for this project is $45,000.

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ESTONIA ALLIANCE MISSIONARY

Project ID: BA0002-63320

- Serves two congregations in Narva, in Eastern Estonia
- Ministers in both the Russian and Estonian language
- Encourages, supports, offers prayer and divine services
- Covers full cost of travel, housing and meals, and incidental costs
This project supports Alliance Missionary, Rev. Oleg Sevastyanov of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (a full partner church of the LCMS). Pastor Sevastyanov serves two congregations in Narva, in Eastern Estonia, which is right along the Russian border. He is bilingual and therefore ministers in both the Russian and Estonian languages in this city. The countryside of Estonia is covered with ice and snow for several months of the year. Even the sea sometimes freezes! But the local people are hungry and open to the Gospel, despite having to cope with many heavy burdens. The Holy Spirit continues to bless Pr. Sevastyanov's work in Estonia. As part of his ministry, he serves two established Lutheran churches, in order to encourage them, support them, pray for them, offer them divine services and the sacraments and generally help them in any way he can.

Sometimes this takes the form of meeting with people one-on-one to just listen to them talk about their hopes, dreams and challenges. God has proved His faithfulness and love through the interesting journey Pr. Sevastyanov's life has taken. He has a heart to love and encourage others, a love for the Word and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He enjoys praying for people and has a desire to see souls saved and that those new converts are nurtured and are able to grow in their Lutheran faith and relationships. The Lord has put a deep love for Estonia on Pr. Sevastyanov's heart as he longs to see the outworking of God's plans and purposes for the people of Estonia—to love God and be loved by God in all its fullness. This project covers the full cost of travel, housing and meals, and any incidental costs incurred by Pr. Sevastyanov to Estonia. Our annual support need is $17,000.

Estonia Alliance Missionary - Project ID: BA0002-63320

Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
ALLIANCE MISSIONARY

GERMANY

Project ID: WE0006-63108

- Translating between Farsi (Iran), Dari (Afghanistan) and German
- Spreading the Gospel of Christ to Middle Eastern Immigrants
- Encouraging, supporting, and teaching new converts
- Covers full cost of housing in Hamburg
This project supports Rev. Marco Turunen, and his wife Siiri who are currently working among Persian (Iran and Afghanistan) and other Middle Eastern immigrants coming to Christ in droves through evangelism efforts of the LCMS in partnership with our sister church, The Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (SELK). The Turunens are originally from Finland, but Rev. Turunen is now a member of the SELK ministerium. Siiri is a social worker and linguist, fluent in Farsi and Dari, the languages of Iran and Afghanistan, respectively. The Turunens have worked in Stieglitz, assisting pastor Gottfried Martens in his congregation, Trinity Lutheran, Stieglitz/Berlin. Trinity Lutheran has over 1,500 Middle Eastern immigrant converts from Islam to Christianity. With the development of mature Persian Christians within the congregation, translation needs among Farsi, Dari, and German are readily available. The Turunens have therefore been moved to Hamburg to continue the same work in the two SELK congregations in that city, Trinity Lutheran and Zion Lutheran. In order to expand this work to Hamburg the LCMS is collaborating with SELK in providing housing for the Turunens in Hamburg, thereby becoming Alliance Missionaries of our LCMS Eurasia Region. Our annual support need for this project is $16,000.

Alliance Missionary, Germany - Project ID: WE0006-63108

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
ALLIANCE MISSIONARY

ICELAND

Project ID: IS0001-63223

- Church planting and building a congregation in Iceland
- Delivering Word and Sacrament to the Icelandic Remnant
- Encouraging, supporting, offering prayer and divine services
- Covers full cost of housing, travel and incidental costs
Rev. Sakarias Ingolfsson was ordained pastor on August 16, 2020 in The Lutheran Church in Norway. Ingolfsson has been serving as senior pastor in the Messiaaskirken congregation in Oslo, as well as being involved in the local AdFontes Lutheran pastor training program. The Lutheran Church in Norway (LCN) is a full partner church of the LCMS. Rev. Ingolfsson is ethnically Icelandic (the languages of both countries are similar). Bishop Torkild Masvie of the LCN has approached the LCMS with a request to help them establish a confessional Lutheran presence in Iceland, using pastor Ingolfsson as a missionary in Reykjavik. The State Church of Iceland, originally solidly confessional Lutheran, has deviated from her roots to the point of reviving the ancient paganism of the country; this includes delving back into spiritism, ancestor worship and the worship of the Nordic gods of the distant past. But God still has a remnant there, a nucleus of pious Lutherans crying for a return to the true faith of their Lutheran forefathers. LCMS collaboration with the LCN in a mission to Iceland would provide the salve of the pure Gospel and sacraments for the Lutherans already there, as well as provide outreach to the lost, which are many. Our annual support need for this project is $30,000.

Alliance Missionary, Iceland - Project ID: IS0001-63223

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P.O. Box 66861
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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
ALLIANCE MISSIONARY

PAKISTAN

Project PK0002-64804

- Establishment of a registered Lutheran Church body
- Spreading the pure gospel of Jesus Christ to Muslims
- Recruitment of Pakistani men willing to become Lutheran pastors
- Covers full cost of travel and housing
Soon to be ordained into the preaching office, vicar Jay Dass is completing his EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology) studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Jay and his wife Julie are ethnic Pakistanis with many connections in their home country. Once ordained, Jay and Julie, who are both fluent in the national language, Urdu, are eager to return to Pakistan to bring the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ to this largely Muslim country. As ethnic Pakistanis the Dasses hold a permanent visa to live in their home country, something that would not be possible for LCMS pastors holding only US citizenship. In addition to completing his EIIT studies vicar Dass has already spent many months back in Pakistan sharing the Gospel with many and establishing a registered Lutheran Church body and encouraging men to study for the ministry. He has already recruited more than 10 Pakistani men who are studying at our Eurasia Regional Seminary, Luther Academy, and could complete their Bachelor of Theology degree within four years. The work is very challenging, but the Lord has opened this door through this Alliance Missionary route. Our annual need for this project is $50,000.

Alliance Missionary, Pakistan - Project ID: PK0002-64804

Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
EURASIA CENTER FOR SPREADING THE GOSPEL (THE OLD LATIN SCHOOL)

Project ID: WE0005-63106

- The Old Latin School Complex—Wittenberg, Germany
- Nine-month Rental of lecture hall, dormitory and chapel
- Formation of Pastors, deaconess and missionaries
- Expanded for semester abroad and international training for use by Concordia Universities
THE EURASIA CENTER FOR SPREADING THE GOSPEL will help facilitate the development and growth of confessional LCMS pastors who will preach the Gospel, and deaconesses, lay missionaries and church workers who will serve in mercy within Eurasia and other LCMS regions. The project centers on the OLD LATIN SCHOOL (OLS) complex in Wittenberg—the birthplace of confessional Lutheranism; where there is still a deep-seated connection with the Reformation and the earliest Lutheran history. The LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM)-Eurasia will utilize this recently remodeled facility as the European epicenter for residential educational purposes, curriculum intensives and other international pastoral conferences. The facilities will be rented exclusively by and for the LCMS to use and even to sublet—for supplemental annual Revenue offset—during the nine-month academic period September 1- May 31. Use of the OLS facilities will be expanded for semester abroad and international training in conjunction with the various Concordia Universities (e.g., Michigan, Mequon, Chicago, Nebraska, and Irvine). The center will also be used for a broad range of other Lutheran educational initiatives (e.g., North European Lutheran Academy [NELA] in Scandinavia), the Network of Young Lutheran Theologians [NYLT] a pan-European organization started by LCMS partner Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland [ELMDF], as well as pastoral conferences which host various LCMS partner churches throughout the region. This education will enrich future pastors, deaconesses, missionaries and church workers’ understanding of the joys and challenges of both the pastoral and missiological “call.” There will always be a primary focus on spreading the Gospel of Christ. The total funding needed for this project is $80,000.
Continuing Education for local church partners
Immediate impact on pastors, deaconesses and church workers
Joyfully teaching and bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Covers full expenses for travel, housing, meals, and incidental costs
This project provides theological education initiatives for our Lutheran church partners throughout Eurasia. The churches with whom we share altar and pulpit fellowship frequently ask us for Continuing Education courses for their own pastors, lay ministers and church workers. This Theological Education project provides the means by which pastors of local church bodies in specific countries within Eurasia may gather together for a week-long course or a conference—always on a topic of the partner church’s own choosing. These courses and seminars make an immediate impact on the local churches. The visiting educators not only teach, but while visiting provide pastoral care to church pastors and other members and hold services on site. Some of LCMS’ finest theologians are deployed to impart education and encouragement. They speak into the context of the local churches they visit and reach out to the local community, joyfully bringing the rich and encouraging news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This project also provides special annual events such as a Diaconal Seminar for women and a Pastoral and Music Educators conference in Palanga, Lithuania, Russian language theological seminars in Odessa, Ukraine, as well as a regional theological conferences on needed topics, such as Missio Dei (Mission of God) in Brno within the Czech Republic, bringing together pastors, seminary students, and laity from most of Central and Eastern Europe. As local pastors and missionaries in Eurasia continue to share the Gospel and plant more churches, there becomes a greater need for ongoing theological education. Theological Educators from the USA (e.g., CTSFW) as well as local educators from our seminary in Latvia (Riga Luther Academy) participate in offering in-depth study of the Lutheran theology and minister to the spiritual needs of local congregations and the surrounding Christian community. Classes are held primarily in English, with local translators. This project covers the full cost of travel, housing and meals, as well as any incidental costs incurred by our visiting theological educators. Our annual support need is $100,000.

Theological Education - Project ID: EM0001-64003
Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

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P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
“RUSSIAN” GEORGIA OUTREACH

Project ID: GE0001-63215

- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in local languages
- Ministering to believers in the dark border countries
- Encourages, supports, offers prayers and shows mercy
- Covers full cost of housing and meals, and incidental costs
SUMMARY

This project supports two missionaries working in Kutaisi and other communities along the Black Sea within the borders of “Russian” Georgia. Kutaisi is situated near the Black Sea, bordering Turkey as well as other Central Asian countries Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is one of the oldest cities in Europe, with a deep Christian history. Christianity in Russian Georgia traces back to the 1st century. The Bible was translated into Georgian in the 5th century. In Georgia most of the earliest surviving written works are religious texts. Georgians remain mostly “Christian” despite repeated historical invasions by Muslim powers, and long episodes of foreign domination. After Georgia was annexed by the Russian Empire, the Russian Orthodox Church took over the Georgian church in 1811. Today Eastern Orthodoxy is the official state religion. However, this image of Georgia as uniformly Christian is incorrect. While most people claim to be Christian, there is a significant variety of competing religions among the Georgian population. Christians must take great care in sharing their faith with others locally, as it can arouse suspicion, especially along the southern border with Turkey, where those who profess Christianity place themselves on the front line of conflict between the Islamic and Christian worlds. Just over the border, converting to Christianity from Islam is illegal. As such, our two brave missionaries (who must remain nameless) are witnesses of Christ who risk their lives in serving believers locally. They continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and minister to fellow Christians in the dark countries along the border where persecution of Christians is severe, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is literally banned. Our annual support need is $50,000.

“Russian” Georgia Outreach - Project ID: GE0001 -63215

Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
INDIA

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Project ID: IN0001-62222

- Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil
- Support for e-library and ongoing publications
- Seminary student scholarships
- Part time salaries for church workers
The LCMS OIM Eurasia region has recently been assigned oversight for all of India. The thrust of Eurasia missions in India is two-fold; 1) To provide theological education on varying levels and 2) To assist the India Evangelical Lutheran Church [IELC] with financial support for its administration and church officers. LCMS missionary, Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann is currently living in neighboring Sri Lanka, but is slated to move to India as soon as the COVID pandemic subsides. Dr. Naumann will work in our [IELC] partner seminary, Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil [CTSN]. The total India budget inherited from the LCMS' OIM Asia region is $105,000. This budget reflects what is needed to continue the smooth operation of CTSN. Seminary costs include faculty subsidies, maintenance, e-library and book collection, computer lab, printing and ongoing publications, IELC student scholarships, lay training and continuing education courses. Subsidies are also required for the IELC elected officials and one administrator (legal advisor/consultant). Until recently, IELC officials were required to serve in their respective offices gratis, while working for individual parishes full-time to provide for their daily living. With the tremendous growth of the IELC, these individuals now need to devote full attention to Church administration matters. It is necessary that each church official be a partially salaried employee, without the added burden of serving an individual congregation full-time. The total support needed for part-time salaries of the legal and administrative consultant along with the IELC President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasure, is $105,000.

India Evangelical Lutheran Church - Project ID: IN0001-62222

Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
INGRIA HOPE CENTER

Project ID: RU0001-63220

- Crisis pregnancy counseling
- Pastoral and other spiritual care
- Child-rearing resources and financial assistance
- Ongoing seminars and an Adoption-at-a-Distance Program
This ongoing mercy project reaches out to the greater population of St. Petersburg, Russia (in the large northwestern region known as Ingria). Russian Christians are some of the most severely and continuously persecuted in recent history. Russia also suffers from the world’s second highest abortion rate. With the help of centers like the Ingria Hope Center, the total rate of abortions in Russia has gone down from an average of 3.39 registered abortions per one woman during her reproductive age in 1991 to less than one abortion per one woman in recent times. However, this rate is still a sad commentary on modern society. Help us dear Lord! Many women fall victim to abuse in Russia. According to an independent study of fifty cities and towns in Russia, 70% have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence in the home—be it physical, psychological, economic, or sexual. There are also over 85,000 orphans, and an estimated one million children living on the streets in Russia. As such, many Russian women and children fall victim to sex trafficking within the Russia borders and abroad. The Ingria Hope Center provides peer counseling related to abortion, pregnancy and childbirth, women’s health, and also offers additional non-medical services such as child-rearing resources, adoption referrals, pastoral counseling and other spiritual care. Donations to this project help fund one-on-one counseling, seminars, training materials, office supplies, and an Adoption-at-a-Distance Program for single mothers. Our annual need begins at $35,000.

Ingria Hope Center - Project ID: RU0001-63220

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P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
INGRIA OUTREACH &
CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Project ID: RU0002-63214

- Maintaining altar and pulpit fellowship with the ELCIR
- Strengthening the confessional Lutheran faith in Ingria
- Christian Outreach, church development, and mercy work in deaneries (districts) in the region
This project is designated to help with outreach, church planting, and mercy work designed to assist pastors, congregations, and districts (‘deaneries’) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (ELCIR). The LCMS desires to work with the ELCIR in her commitment to strengthen the confessional Lutheran faith within Russia. Lutherans have worshipped in Russia for more than 400 years, but during the twentieth century they faced serious persecution under the Communist regime. By the end of the 1930s, Lutheranism was virtually expunged from Russia; all Lutheran churches and schools were closed, and pastors were exiled to labor camps, leaving parishioners without leadership for many years. Throughout the years of Soviet control, Lutheran families would gather in secret with other believers for common prayer, Lutheran worship, and to sing hymns. In the early 1990s, the situation took a promising turn after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The long-established Lutheran church, ELCIR, was once again recognized by the State. The LCMS is in altar and pulpit fellowship with the ELCIR church body today. Our annual support need for the ELCIR is $25,000.

Outreach and Church planting - Project ID: RU0002-63214

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P.O. Box 66861
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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
KAZAKH OUTREACH IN MONGOLIA

Project ID: MN0001-63406

- Serves two congregations in Ulaanbaatar and Khovd (Mongolia)
- Develops Christian resource materials in both the English and Kazakh languages
- Encourages, supports, offers prayer and divine services
- Helps defray the costs of local expenses
This project supports the outreach and mercy efforts of one of our Missionary pastors and his family serving in Mongolia. There is a tiny number of Christians in Mongolia, consisting mostly of Roman Catholics and Russian Orthodox, but especially Protestants. In Ulaanbaatar, only 3 percent of the registered population of the city practice Christianity. Reverend David Baker teaches theology to several students at the local Theological Institute in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. He also serves local congregations and develops Christian resource materials in the Kazakh language there, and also in Khovd, which is the capital city of the Khovd Province. The dominant religions in Ulaanbaatar and Khovd are Buddhism and Islam. The Bakers’ missionary work sometimes takes the form of meeting with people in group settings or one-on-one discussions about their hopes, dreams, beliefs and challenges. God has proved His faithfulness and love through the work of Pr. Baker and his family. He holds Lutheran services in private settings and encourages others as he works to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christy. Pr. Baker plays the guitar and the Kazakh Dombra, and his entire family plays various musical instruments—they sing with the locals whenever the opportunity avails. The Baker family has a desire to see souls saved and that new converts are nurtured and are able to grow in their faith and Christian fellowship. Our annual support need is $20,000.
KAZAKHSTAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Project ID: KZ0001-63410

- Support for Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (Almaty)
- Ongoing Lutheran pastoral formation
- Christian community ministries, including camps and VBS
- Orphanages and boarding schools
Around 70% of the 18 million inhabitants of Kazakhstan are Muslim, while 23% are Orthodox Christians and 7% percent are Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Jewish or non-religious. Confessional Lutherans in Kazakhstan can trace their roots back to when ethnic Germans (over a million) were deported there from Western Ukraine, the Caucasus (a region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea) and the Volga (a region spanning central to southern Russia) during the reign of Stalin (1939 on). But believers were strictly forbidden from worshiping or assembling. Nevertheless, they met secretly, underground, mostly in private houses which they called “houses of prayer.” It wasn’t until the year 2000 that the Kazakh state recognized the Lutheran Church as an accepted, traditional religion. This project supports the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Almaty. At the July 2016 convention, the LCMS formally recognized and endorsed the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Almaty in formal altar and pulpit fellowship. The Lord has truly blessed our mission in Kazakhstan. Rev. Alexander Burtsev is president at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Almaty and serves at the church of Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, which we support. President Burtsev sponsors ongoing Lutheran pastoral formation and theological education in Kazakhstan. He and his congregation have also developed various Christian community ministries; including camps, and a well-attended Vacation Bible School program. Their outreach has also fostered three orphanages and three boarding schools. Our annual support need is $70,000.

Kazakhstan Lutheran Church - Project ID: KZ0001-63410

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
KYRGYZSTAN
FUND COMPASSION-MERCY

Project ID: KG0001-63715

- Christian outreach and church planting
- Developing Christian resource materials in the Kyrgyz language
- Teaching English as a second language
- Assisting with agricultural development and medical projects — connected with Gospel outreach
This project supports various outreach and mercy efforts by one of our Missionary pastors and his family serving in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan is a country located in Central Asia. Landlocked and mountainous, Kyrgyzstan is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the southwest and China to the east. Though long inhabited by a succession of independent tribes and clans, Kyrgyzstan has periodically come under foreign domination due to its strategic location, attaining sovereignty as a nation-state only after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Ethnic Kyrgyz make up the majority of the country’s 5.7 million people, followed by significant minorities of Uzbeks and Russians. The majority of the population (80 percent) is Muslim. This part of Central Asia is oftentimes very dangerous for Christians. Their work is centered on church planting and pastoral Christian counselling. Additional mercy work in the region includes agricultural development, medical projects and teaching English as a second language — connected with Gospel outreach. God has shown His faithfulness and love in Kyrgyzstan through the work of our local missionary Pastor and his family who love sharing the Gospel of and have a strong desire to see souls saved by Christ, and to see that new converts are able to be nurtured and grow in their faith and Christian community. Our annual support need is $10,000.

**Kyrgyzstan Fund Compassion / Mercy - Project ID: KG0001-63715**

Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement**

P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
KYRGYZ LUTHERAN CHURCH SUPPORT

Project ID: KG0002-63407

- Delivering Word and Sacraments to local Lutherans
- Translation of Christian materials in the Kyrgyz language
- Covering church expenses and necessary supplies
- Supporting pastor salaries and living expenses
This project supports the Kyrgyz Lutheran Church in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan is located in Central Asia. Christianity has a long history in Kyrgyzstan, with the earliest archaeological remains of churches belonging to the Church of the East in modern-day Suyab, dating back to the 7th century. By the 15th century, however, there were no longer ecclesiastical structures of any church to be found in what is today Kyrgyzstan. Lutheranism, in fact, is probably one of the least known Christian religions among the general public. The core of today’s Kyrgyz Lutherans consists of Germans removed during the Second World War. The initial communities of Evangelical Lutherans appeared in Kyrgyzstan back in 1999. Today, Christianity is claimed by only 5% of the population, the majority being Orthodox. The vast majority of the population (over 80 percent) is Muslim, as Islam has gained the ascendancy among the Kyrgyz people. What’s more, the Occult, demonic forces, and shamans also hold many people in further bondage. This part of Central Asia is oftentimes very dangerous for professing Christians. Support for the Kyrgyz Lutheran Church includes pastor salaries and housing expenses, Christian materials development and translation of Lutheran texts, travel, utilities and other necessary church supplies. The Kyrgyz Lutheran Church is a key connector to Gospel outreach rooted in the Lutheran Confessions in the country. God has shown His faithfulness and love in Kyrgyzstan through the work of the Kyrgyz Lutheran Church along with our LCMS local missionaries who serve there. By and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit they continue to bring the Word and Sacrament to the local Lutheran Christians who take refuge in the salvation offered by Jesus Christ alone. Our annual support need for this church is $50,000.
LUTHERAN HYMNAL PROJECTS

- Lutheran hymnals in foreign languages
- First Italian Confessional Lutheran Hymnal
- Divine Service Liturgies, and various catechetical texts
- Project will be completed by designated members of the CLCI in Italy
This project is designated for the ongoing creation of confessional Lutheran hymnals in foreign languages within countries in Eurasia, where none yet exist. For the next two years our focus will be on developing the first Italian Confessional Lutheran Hymnal in Italy, in conjunction with the Confessional Lutheran Church of Italy (CLCI). A hymnal is a fundamental resource of any Lutheran congregation. It is a concentration of both theology and music. The texts and hymnody selected to be included in the first CLCI Hymnal will be abounding in Lutheran praise, prayer, services and a hymnody to serve the church year. In Italy a strong tradition exists as regards the singing of Christian hymns and other songs. Many of the great Christian “fathers”—such as Ambrose of Milan—wrote several lyrics and melodies for early Christian congregational singing. The Ambrosian chant, also known simply as “antiphonal chant,” a method of chanting where one side of the choir alternately responds to the other, is still sung at various places in the Confessional Lutheran Church today. The Project will be undertaken by designated members of the CLCI in Italy. The goal is not so much the volume of hymns, liturgies and texts, but the appropriateness and accessibility of each hymn and text in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the context of confessional Lutheran theology. Specific liturgies as found in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) e.g., Divine Service 3 and the Service of the Word and Preaching, will also be translated for use at CLCI services in Italy throughout the church year. Additional items which will be considered for translation and inclusion are certain catechetical texts (e.g., the Apostles’ Creed, Nicene Creed and Athanasian Creed, the Decalogue and other Lutheran rites and common prayers). Our annual support need is $10,000.

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Lutheran Hymnal Projects - Project ID: EM0003-64006

Checks should reference the above project ID, and be made out to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, and sent to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
MUSLIM OUTREACH WITH SELK

Project ID: WE0003-63103

- Serving Muslim refugees from Iran and Afghanistan
- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Farsi (Iran) and Dari (Afghanistan)
- Translating Christian Materials
- Covers travel, materials and incidental costs
SUMMARY

This project supports the Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church, our LCMS partner church in Germany (SELK), which has about 33,000 members in 174 congregations. Our missionaries here work mainly with refugees from Iran and Afghanistan fleeing the horrors of Islam and embracing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Many of the Muslim refugees speak of having Christian ancestors who centuries ago were forced to renounce their Christianity and confess Islam on pain of death. Now, Iranian (formerly southern Persian) Christians who come to Germany, are instructed, baptized, and welcomed to the Lord’s altar—no longer under fear, but out of faith and in joy over their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a turning point in each of their lives when they are catechized and then invited to come to Holy Baptism. There they confess the one true faith in the Apostle’s Creed (translated into Farsi), the pastor speaks the trinitarian baptismal formula and pours water on their heads. They are now marked as children of God, sharers in Christ’s death and glorious resurrection. Many of the refugees are introduced to Christianity by an acquaintance while still living in Iran or Afghanistan. It is very important to the refugees that the teaching by the missionaries is translated into Farsi (Iran) and Dari (the principal language of Afghanistan). In this way, the refugees can readily understand the biblical teachings they are taught. Our local missionaries provide for the publication and distribution of various Christian literature translated into Farsi and Dari. But even with a hope for a new future, there are still difficulties. Some of the newly baptized fear speaking out. They are afraid of what might happen to them or their families if they were to ever be sent back to Iran or Afghanistan. Once the refugees are baptized, they become members of a local German Lutheran congregation. Through prayer, teaching and the administration of the Word and Sacraments, their pastors uphold and strengthen each of them in the Christian faith and fight for their right to live in their newfound freedom in Christ. Our annual support need is $10,000 per year.

Muslim Outreach with SELK - Project ID: WE0003-63103

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
OUTREACH AND CHURCH PLANTING

Project ID: EM0002-64004

- Planting new churches in Eurasia
- Forming new local pastors in the region
- Deaconess, Lay Minister and Church Worker education
- New member catechism and Lutheran life together
This project supports multiple OIM Eurasia efforts in church planting with an emphasis on spreading the Gospel and showing mercy. As of January 2021, there are seven recent church plants in the land of the original gospel missionaries and martyrs: Italy (Rome, Padua, Abruzzo), Greece (Katerini, near Thessaloniki), Bulgaria (Sophia) and Romania (Bucharest and Suceava). We call this expanded part of the region the Eurasia Balkan-Mediterranean Subregion. A shining example is the nascent Confessional Lutheran Church of Italy (CLCI) which had just three members in the fall of 2019. Despite COVID and local and regional travel restrictions, the church membership has now grown to six baptized and catechized members and eight regular attendees at their weekly online services. The Holy Spirit has blessed the work. When travel restrictions are lifted, in-person services will continue in the church plants in Romania, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria. A dozen men from this subregion are enrolled in the Spring semester of the new Luther Academy (Riga Latvia Seminary), which boasts a hybrid of online course with residential in-person intensive sessions held in Wittenberg and on-field mentoring by a local missionary or pastor. Pastoral and Deaconess formation along with cultivating lay church workers is a key component of the church planting and education mission efforts in the region. Pastoral students work closely with missionary church planters throughout the region, in order to gain vital hands on experience in planting churches and sharing the Gospel with those who don’t yet know Christ. For the women who are studying to be deaconesses, there is the rich theological depth offered in classes, and intensive practical experience which comes from building and establishing new churches and demonstrating proper Lutheran congregational life together. Our annual support need is $80,000.

Outreach and Church planting - Project ID: EM0002-64004

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
REGIONAL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Project ID: EM0007-64013

- For Indigenous men seeking to become pastors
- High-quality education for uniquely qualified students
- Fosters optimum level of undergraduate education
- Lutheran pastoral formation

ICMS MISSION
SPREAD THE GOSPEL. PLANT LUTHERAN CHURCHES. SHOW MERCY.
The Eurasia Region is unique in that there is a strong desire by the laity in most of its fields for a high-level of education by students preparing for the pastoral ministry. This might include current pastors seeking to strengthen their knowledge through continuing education. The pastoral office is held in high esteem and the expectation of the people is that their pastor be well equipped to shepherd his flock, especially in this time when false teachers are so prevalent, and the word of God revealed alone by Holy Scripture is under continual assault. As God says through His apostle St. Peter, “In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (ESV 1 Pet. 3:15). We want to help uniquely qualified students obtain a high-quality education. We need to be in a position to support them in their pastoral formation and to encourage them to enroll in educational institutions which will develop their cognitive abilities in ways not always available through the education offered in their home countries. This pertains particularly, but not exclusively to undergraduate education. Most of the secular institutions of higher learning within Eurasia have become increasingly biased in their teaching of younger students, to the point of indoctrinating them with a kind of "group-think" that does not foster critical thinking, nor do they encourage students to learn beyond the biases of the world. Rather, students are forced into thinking and learning according to ideological and political agendas often contrary to the Word of God, while disallowing argument to the contrary. In fact, many schools today are incentivizing students to comply in order to receive passing marks for graduation. This project has been established to provide opportunities to indigenous students who desire to become pastors; to help them pursue a complete educational formation toward their eventual service in the office of teaching and preaching the Gospel in their respective home mission fields. Our annual support need is $25,000.

Reg. Pastoral Develop. Program - Project ID: EM0007-64013

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
RIGA LUTHER ACADEMY (THE LIVONIA PROJECT)

- Online Bachelor's Program leading to ordination
- Formation of local pastors, Deaconesses and church workers
- Support for bibles, books, courseware and software
- Seminary Scholarship endowment fund

Project ID: BA0004-63321
“Neither you nor I could ever know anything about Christ...unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” –Martin Luther, Large Catechism, II.38. There is a scarcity of local confessional Lutheran pastors to the preach the Gospel in the Eurasia Region, in local languages. The Livonia Project, which is titled after the historic regional name for modern-day Latvia and Estonia used at the time of the Lutheran Reformation in 1522, seeks to improve this situation. With our partner church in Latvia, we have developed an online English-based theology curriculum at the bachelor’s level that parallels the accredited Latvian language theology curriculum of the Riga Luther Academy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (LELB). This degree is a four-year, 40-course program that includes in-person practicums. The curriculum will afford men seeking to become pastors, a Bachelor of Theology Professional degree, which after three years of study plus a year of vicarage, is designed to lead to ordination into the office of the public ministry of confessional Lutheran churches. The initiative will serve five partner churches in pastoral formation to begin with. The curriculum is designed especially for distance-learning with students who wish to study confessional Lutheran theology on track to becoming pastors, and who are able to function with English as a second language. We have some of the top theological educators within the LCMS to work on this initiative. Without financial help from supporters, such an endeavor is impossible. We need to remunerate those participating in the development process for their contribution, travel, office, technology, reproduction of materials and other costs. Beyond the initial costs of creating and rolling out this online degree program, we are seeking to build up an endowment fund with which to offer needs-based scholarships to incoming pastoral candidates, as appropriate. In addition to partnering and supporting us in prayer, we are seeking to raise a total of $16,000 from our contributors in phase one. Your support will go toward Concordia Study bibles, books, courseware and software licensing (in year one). This will be an annual project that will shift funds from startup and development to operations and a scholarship fund (in year two). Our annual support need is $90,000.

Livonian Lutheran Project - Project ID: BA0004-63321

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
SIBERIA COUNSELING
AND OUTREACH CENTER

Project ID: RU0004-63217

- Women’s outreach and crisis counseling
- Pastoral care and administration of God’s gifts
- Sharing the Gospel and showing mercy
- Family resources and ongoing women’s support
This project supports the Faith and Hope Center, right in the heart of Novosibirsk, Siberia (Russia). Novosibirsk is a principal cultural and educational center in Siberia. There are some two dozen institutions of higher learning, including the Novosibirsk State University, founded in 1959; other higher-education establishments include railway engineering, electrotechnical, medical, agricultural, and teacher-training institutes. With the large number of educational facilities present, the proportion of students enrolled in higher education in the city is among the highest in Russia. With a high population of students, the need for Christian counseling (especially women’s and crisis pregnancy counseling) reaches the urgent level. Additionally, many women in Siberia fall victim to domestic abuse. According to an independent study of fifty cities and towns in Russia, 70% have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence in the home—be it physical, psychological, economic, or sexual. The Faith and Hope center is run by missionary and Deaconess Gloria Vinogradova, who was trained by Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne. The center provides Christian counseling to women contemplating abortion and to those suffering from abusive home situations. It also offers divine services, bible classes, and individual confession and absolution by visiting pastors of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (which is in full partnership with the LCMS). Our annual support need is $40,000.

Siberia Counseling & Outreach Ctr. - Project ID: RU0004-63217

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Contact: michael.morizio@lcms.org
UKRAINE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND ESL

Project ID: UA0001-63212

- Ongoing work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine
- Week-long intensive seminars on confessional, Lutheran theology
- Teaching English as a second language (ESL)
Since 2017 a great change has occurred in The Evangelical Church of Ukraine (ELCU), whose official/legal name is: DELKU-Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Ukraine), when she broke church fellowship with the non-Lutheran German church (EKD) and dropped her affiliation with the liberal Lutheran World Federation (LWF) over her rejection of women’s ordination and refusal to adopt the LGBTQ agenda of the EKD and LWF. Now the ELCU is seeking fellowship with the LCMS. In order to draw closer to this potential sister synod, Eurasia missions have provided monthly, week-long intensive seminars on confessional, Lutheran theology for the ELCU pastors, students of theology, pre-seminary students and interested church workers and laypeople. This work is now coordinated and administered by an LCMS missionary pastor. These seminars are held at the church headquarters in Odessa, St Paul's Lutheran Church, Ukraine built in 1824. In addition, English as a Second Language is very much needed in order for the Ukrainian church to be able to communicate with their fellow Lutheran believers in the West. For this, LCMS missionary teachers have been deployed to teach English as a second language (ESL), particularly among the pastors, but is also made available to other church members. Our annual support need is $31,000.

Ukraine Theological Education & ESL - Project ID: UA0001-63212

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