

# EPIPHANY — A SEASON OF GLOBAL AWARENESS FOR THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD

## SUGGESTIONS TO CONGREGATIONS FOR CELEBRATION IN EPIPHANY

It is suggested that each congregation in the Central States Synod consider the following:

Select a Sunday during the Epiphany season to do **mission education** about the Global partnerships and world-wide ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and to celebrate our companion church relationships with the Kotte District in Papua New Guinea and with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Russian Far East. A bulletin insert is available for that Sunday as well as short informational powerpoints and video. Both can be accessed on the Synod Website. Additional educational materials, prayers, music and other resources are available later in this packet.

throughout the Epiphany season, include **prayers** for the missionaries sent and supported by the ELCA, for Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs), for our Companion Synods and for the Church throughout the world, especially the church in areas that are facing trials and enduring suffering such as the Church in Syria, Egypt, Sudan, and other places that you are aware of. Also, be sure and include prayers for Missionary Bradn Buerkle serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia.

**Schedule special programs** such as a speaker from the synod who has visited a Companion Synod or someone who has served with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM). A list of persons with experience in the Companion Synods is included in this packet..

**Plan other activities** in accordance with the interests and traditions of your congregation. Some additional ideas might be to:

Hang flags in the sanctuary of your church from other countries around the world. Ask members of your congregation to loan the church flags from other countries that they have in their homes. You might be surprised at how many flags from foreign lands are hanging in the homes of your members.

Use bread from different countries and cultures for communion during Epiphany.

Include children's messages that focus on other countries and cultures.

See if there are people who have been on Companion Synod visits, mission trips to foreign lands or done a term or two with Young Adults in Global Mission, and have them do a presentation in your congregation.

Be creative!

**Make a financial contribution** to the Companion Synod Program as a special offering or from the congregation's benevolence budget. At this time our Synod has 3 projects that are priorities.

**The First Priority** is the support of **Pastor Alexander Lapochenko** who is serving St. Luke Lutheran Church in the city of Arsenyev in the Russian Far East. Our Synod has provided support for him over the past 4 years and has pledged to continue to do so for at least one more year. Our Synod needs to raise \$6000.00 during 2018 to meet this commitment.

**The Second Priority** is funding for 1 or 2 youth from Papua New Guinea to come to our Synod and serve as Counselors at Camp Tomah Shinga where they can learn songs, group building games, Bible Study techniques that they can take back to PNG with them. We had two young adults who spent the summer at Camp Tomah Shinga from late May through early August, 2019. It was an extremely positive experience for everyone including the two young

adults, Noel and Natasha, campers, other camp counselors and many congregations that hosted the youth from PNG during their time here. We plan to have two more come to work at the camp in 2019. Our Goal for this project is \$8000.00 for travel and support costs.

**The Third Priority** is the restricted travel fund. These funds help defray part of the cost for visitations both to and from our companion churches. Members of the delegations visiting our Partner Synods are responsible for the majority of the cost of the trip. However, the Synod seeks to provide some financial aid to the travelers so these visitations are available to all members of the synod including those with limited financial resources.

**Congregations are also encouraged** to give to the Russian Far East which helps all nine congregations in the Russian Far East continue their ministries.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Pr. Gary Teske at [teskimost@gmail.com](mailto:teskimost@gmail.com) or at 785-393-0965.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### **Prayer requests of the Lutheran congregations in Russia:**

For the leaders of the Lutheran Churches in Russia and the Ukraine as they seek to maintain the unity of the church and work for peace in the face of the conflict between Russia and the Ukraine.

For the leadership of the Church in Russia.

The newly appointed Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia, Rev. Deitrich Brauer.

For the newly elected Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, (ELCUSFE), the Rev. Alexander Scheiermann.

For the Dean Emeritus of the Lutheran Churches in the Far East, Rev. Manfred Brockmann ([manfred.brockmann@gmx.de](mailto:manfred.brockmann@gmx.de)),

For Pastor Alexander Lapochenko, Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Arsenyev, Russia who is supported by our Synod.

For Missionary Bradn Buerkle, serving with the Lutheran Church in Russia and now serving as acting Dean of the Lutheran Church in the Russian Far East.

For our "CoSyn" Christians in Papua New Guinea and especially the people of the Kotte District of the ELCPNG.

For the leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG) and of our Companion District of that Church, the Kotte District.

For the Presiding Bishop of the ELCPNG, The Rev. Jack Urame.

For the president of the Kotte District of the ELCPNG, Pastor Zonati Metu.

For the overseas partnership coordinator of the Kotte District of the ELCPNG, Pastor Walter Tuenzac

For the nation of Papua New Guinea as it struggles to develop its vast mineral, petroleum, lumber and fishing resources in a way that benefits all of the people.

## RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ON THE GLOBAL MINISTRY AND PARTNERS OF THE ELCA AND THE CSS-ELCA.

The **ELCA Office of Global Mission Web Page** can be accessed at the following web address. <http://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Global-Mission.aspx>. There are numerous links on this page to additional information about the world-wide ministries of the ELCA. Some of them are as follows.

A variety of opportunities for short term and longer term service with our partner churches can be found on this page. This includes an exciting opportunity for young adults called, “Young Adults in Global Mission” (YAGM).

<http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Mission/Global-Service>

This link has information on a variety of ways that congregations can support personnel and ministries around the globe including missionary sponsorships, sponsorships for Young Adults in Global Mission, Scholarships for Leadership Development in our partner churches and other options. <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Church-Sponsorship>

If you are interested in learning more about ELCA World Hunger, be sure and visit this web address. <https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger>

If you are interested in learning about our ELCA involvement in one of the most urgent and pressing issues of our time, namely, the flood of refugees coming from many parts of our war-torn world, please visit the web site of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) at; [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org).

The websites are easy to navigate and includes reproducible stories, pictures, uploadable videos and powerpoint presentations and much more. Take some time and browse through the links and consider the many ways that our hands are involved in God’s work around the globe.

For information on the Lutheran Church in the Russian Far East, be sure and visit the Website of St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Vladivostok. That website is: <http://www.luthvostok.com/?a=page&id=1&lang=eng>

For more information on the Lutheran Church in Russia, the ministry of Missionary Bradn Buerkle and some very insightful and thoughtful commentary on such things as the conflict in the Ukraine and life in Russia, visit the blog of Missionary Buerkle at; <http://www.russiancorrespondent.blogspot.com/>

Bradn Buerkle, the ELCA missionary to Russia has produced some YouTube videos of himself, his family and his work. You will be able to access the Youtube videos on the synod’s YouTube site, [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuabCD8uhdjwzMww\\_ejchqw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuabCD8uhdjwzMww_ejchqw). *(note to webmaster. If this link still works, please include it. If not, leave it out*

For a playlist of youtube videos produced by Daniel Lilienkamp following a visit to our CoSyn

Christians in Papua New Guinea in 2014, please go to this website.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvYks3s3J3P4X2vq8zge0PSi57ahdpnuN>

## **SPEAKER'S LIST**

Here is a list of people who have experience with our Companion Synods, World Hunger and Refugee resettlement and could be contacted to speak to your congregations about these topics. Please consider contacting one or more of the individuals listed below to share with you about our relationships and work with our brothers and sisters from our Companion Synods and around the world.

### **Companion Synod Speaker's List**

Amy Truhe (Salina area). [dtruhe@cox.net](mailto:dtruhe@cox.net)

Dan Lilienkamp (St. Louis area). [daniel.lilienkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daniel.lilienkamp@sbcglobal.net)

Delvin Strecker (Wilson, KS. area) [strecker.delvin@gmail.com](mailto:strecker.delvin@gmail.com)

Anita Strecker (Wilson, KS. Area) [astrecker3@gmail.com](mailto:astrecker3@gmail.com)

Ed Jackson (Great Bend, KS area) [hejackson77@hotmail.com](mailto:hejackson77@hotmail.com)

Eli Truhe (Salina area) [fencer9926@gmail.com](mailto:fencer9926@gmail.com)

Emily Greble (KC-Central Missouri area) [emilygreble1@yahoo.com](mailto:emilygreble1@yahoo.com)

Gary Kallansrud (St. Louis area) [gkallansrud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gkallansrud@sbcglobal.net)

Grace Vannoy (KC area) [graciev7@gmail.com](mailto:graciev7@gmail.com)

Jim Cooper (Lawrence area) [jscooper36@hotmail.com](mailto:jscooper36@hotmail.com)

Jim Strasen (Salina area) [strasen@cox.net](mailto:strasen@cox.net)

Kathie Walter (KC area) [kathiew26@gmail.com](mailto:kathiew26@gmail.com)

Leonard Dale Jr. (KS area) [leonard\\_dale@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leonard_dale@sbcglobal.net)

Noah Hornbeck (St. Louis area) [wgfb89@gmail.com](mailto:wgfb89@gmail.com)

Penny and Keith Holste (St. Louis area) [pkholste@hotmail.com](mailto:pkholste@hotmail.com)

Rebecca Blocksome (KC area) [rblocksome@gmail.com](mailto:rblocksome@gmail.com)

Peggy Schaefer, Trinity Lutheran, Chesterfield, Mo; [pbschaefer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbschaefer@sbcglobal.net)

Rev. Jon Brudvig, Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, KS. [Jon.brudvig@gmail.com](mailto:Jon.brudvig@gmail.com).

Brian Hoover (Stover, MO) [immech@yahoo.com](mailto:immech@yahoo.com).

### **Speakers on Refugee Resettlement**

Bill Say (KC area) [wmbsey@gmail.com](mailto:wmbsey@gmail.com)

Ann Say (KS area) [asay1227@gmail.com](mailto:asay1227@gmail.com)

Ed Seuc (St. Louis area) [seuc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seuc@sbcglobal.net)

## **A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE FAR EASTERN REGION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ASIAN RUSSIA AND THE 9 CONGREGATIONS WHO HAVE RISEN FROM THE ASHES FOLLOWING YEARS OF PERSECUTION AND REPRESSION.**

It took three years for the Soviets to reach Vladivostok, and once there, they knocked down church steeples and destroyed the bells. They acquired all properties and assets, art and literature of the church for the state. Many of these items can still be seen in the Hermitage, never to be returned. There are costs measured in material things as well as the lost lives and unmarked graves known only to God. Sacred spaces were turned into archive buildings, museums, apartments and even, in St. Petersburg, a swimming pool. Persecution is actually an inadequate word to describe the

attempted destruction of the church in Russia.

Built on a rock, the church must stand, even when steeples are falling! And stand she did! After 70 years of oppression the important work of rebuilding has begun. The sacred is being reclaimed! Through the work of many called and dedicated Christians in Russia as well as Germany, the United States, and other parts of the world, God's word is being proclaimed and lives are being changed in the most powerful way. It's called accompaniment. Through our Companion Synod Partnership with the Far East of Russia, Central States congregations are joining their brothers and sisters in Russia by supplementing the salary of Rev. Alexander Lapochenko in Aresenyev; building churches; beginning social projects and missions; exchanging gifts and faith; and learning from one another as we walk together. Lasting friendships are being formed.

We invite you to see with eyes of faith the church, the body of Christ as she rises from the ashes into the new dawn of hope. Join us! We can help you connect; we can help you have a much larger sense of church and of yourself.

## **Facts and Information about our Companion Synod in Eastern Russia**

Russia is the largest country in the world by area, at about twice the size of the United States, spanning 11 time zones. It is the 9th largest country by population, with about half as many people as the United States. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Urals, Siberia and Far East is one of two synods that comprise the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia (ELCR). The other is the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in European Russia (ELCER). The Central States Synod has a companion relationship with the ELCUSFE, and is excited about the growing relationships with new friends in Siberia as well as existing relationships in the Far East. Over the years, we have appreciated our ties to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Vladivostok, plus the following eight congregations:

### **St. Marie's, Ussurijsk**

This congregation is about 60 miles from Vladivostok and owns their own flat where they hold worship services. They work with a girls' orphanage helping the youth get training to become beauticians, drivers, and computer programmers. They teach the younger girls how to crochet, knit, and sew. They sponsor a camp and learning opportunities for the youth during the summer. St. Marie's has a preacher as well as a person who coordinates the work between the congregation and the girls' home. St. Marie's has had a close relationship with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Wichita, KS.

### **St. Luke's, Arsen'yev**

St. Luke's began in 1999 and is located a little over 200 miles from Vladivostok. St. Luke's has an ordained pastor, Rev. Alexander Lapochenko and the congregation consists of quite a few young people who are well educated. They are one of the few congregations to have a church building rather than worshipping in a flat or borrowed space. It is newly built and still under construction, but a great asset to the ministry of the congregation. They do a lot of community service ministry, such as helping older people especially those that are ill, having sports teams, helping with forestry, and offering Bible study and English classes. They have a puppet ministry and each year present the Christmas story and a concert. Trinity in Great Bend, Kan. has established a relationship with St. Luke's and the pastor and members of the congregation traveled to Arsen'yev in the fall of 2010. At the request of Bishop Schaude and the Synod of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, the Central States Synod has committed itself to providing financial support for Pastor Alexander Lapochenko, Pastor of Arsen'yev. Congregations interested in contributing to this project can contact the synod office or Gary Teske at 785-393-0965 or teskimost@gmail.com.

## **St. Katharine's Komsomol'sk**

St. Katharine's began in 1999 with five women. Today there are around 100 that range in age from infants to retired people. They work closely with a children's home. They collect clothing for the children and visit the home on a regular basis to teach Bible lessons, give art lessons, and have holiday parties. They have a very active women's group that does Bible study and participates in the World Day of Prayer each year. They have an active youth group that does Bible study and community service projects. Atonement in Overland Park, Kansas, began a relationship with St. Katharine's in 2003 and sent two individuals to Komsomol'sk in the summer of 2004 as well as arranging for someone to visit the US during the summer of 2006. With the help of Atonement St. Katharine's purchased a flat where they now meet for worship, study and ministry activities.

## **St. Johann, Khabarovsk**

St. Johann is a vibrant congregation that is about ten years old and has 60+ members. They have a good music ministry, which attracts young people. They also have a puppet ministry, help with a children's home, and collect food and clothing to be distributed to people in need. They meet in a lecture hall of a hospital for worship and Sunday school. St. John's has a preacher and Bible study leader as well as an administrator. One of the important projects of the congregation is social rehabilitation of children with mental problems. A member of St. John's goes weekly to a children's home and works with them through music therapy. Trinity in Lawrence, Kansas is currently working on establishing a relationship with the members of St. John.

## **Blagoveshchensk**

This congregation was started in 2000 and is quite small. They are located on the Amur River, across from China, about 700 miles from Vladivostok. They have a preacher, and they have use of a classroom in the German Cultural Center for two and half hours each Sunday.

## **St. Matthew's, Chita**

St. Matthew's was started in January of 2000 and is located 1500 miles west of Vladivostok—a trip that takes two days and three nights by train. They do not have a preacher or a regular place to hold worship services.

## **St. Mark's—Magadan**

Magadan, about 1800 miles north of Vladivostok, was founded by Stalin in 1935 as the headquarters for the Gulags in that area. St. Mark's started in 2000. Holy Cross in Overland Park, Kansas, began a relationship with St. Mark's in 2001. Since then several visits between the congregations have been made by people from Holy Cross and from Magadan. With the help of Holy Cross St. Mark's was able to purchase a flat in 2004 where they celebrate worship, conduct Bible study, do social ministry in the area of drug and alcohol abuse, and offer housekeeping and handicraft classes.

## **Sokol**

St. Mark's in Magadan started this congregation in 2006. It meets regularly for worship in a private home. Their leader is currently taking classes at the seminary near St. Petersburg.

## **Recent visitations to and from Russia.**

In the last 10 years there have been 3 visitations to Russia by groups from the Central States Synod and three more by individuals who traveled to Russia to participate in classes and seminars. There have also been visits to the Central States Synod by Archbishop Dietrich Brauer, Dean Manfred Brockmann, Pastor Alexander Lapochenko, lay leader Yevgeny Slinshenko and Missionary Bradn Buerkle. In addition to visits to the Russian Far East, individuals and groups from the Synod have visited Bishop Alexander Scheiermann in Omsk, a congregations in Krasnoyarsk in Central Siberia led by Pastor Gleb Pivavarov and other ministries in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

## **A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE KOTTE DISTRICT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

The Central States Synod's relationship with the Kotte district of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea began with a trip to Papua New Guinea by Bishop Emeritus, Charles Maahs in the late 80s, shortly after the formation of the ELCA. The first visitation to the Kotte District by a group from the CSS was in 1997 and was led by Bishop Charles Maahs. Since that time there have been at least 8 more companion synod visitations to the Kotte District by groups and individuals from the Central States Synod and numerous visits to the Central States Synod by individuals from the Kotte District. The main purpose of these visits is to build relationships between our CoSyn Christians and the people of the Central States Synod. This is in accord with the ELCA Global Mission Model of "Accompaniment" (see an explanation of accompaniment at the end of the packet). The sharing of our common faith by being together, talking together, working together and sharing stories, food, lodging, joys and burdens from our respective contexts invariably deepens and enriches the faith and lives of everyone involved.

The Companion Synod Relationship has also led to more tangible fruits. Members of the CSS traveled to Papua New Guinea in 2014 and delivered 8 computers, one for each circuit of the district and spent a week doing computer training for the operators. In 2016 together with youth traveling to PNG to visit the youth of the Kotte District, two of the trainers returned to do additional computer training and deliver two more computers.

In the past, members of the CSS-ELCA have taught classes in preaching, music and our call to ministry. Visitors to Papua New Guinea have helped build Habitat houses and provided funds for scholarships to Balob Teachers College and to do repairs to the Women's Leadership Training School in the Kotte District. Some of the CSS Congregations have become sponsor congregations for Missionary Ann Klavano who taught at Senior Flierl Seminary in the Finschhafen area of Papua New Guinea until her recent return to the US..

Visitors from Papua New Guinea to the Central States Synod have included two of the district Presidents and various other district, church and circuit leaders. Youth from Papua New Guinea have visited our Synod and attended the National Youth Gathering with youth from the Central States Synod and in 2017, two young adults spent the summer working as counselors at Camp Tomah Shinga through a joint effort of the Companion Synod Team, Camp Tomah Shinga and the ELCA International Camp Counselor program.

The Kotte District is the area where the first German Lutheran Missionaries began their work in the late 1880s and so it is one of the oldest districts in the church. However, it is a very rural area with limited exposure to the rapid westernization and economic development that has been going on in other areas of the country. They have set two priority areas in which they desire help from the Central States Synod going beyond the ever present goal of building and strengthening relationships. Those two areas are the development of internet communication that can help the 8 circuits and many congregations stay better connected in their rugged remote environment, and the development of better stewardship of the resources they do have.

Early exploratory patrols in the first half of the last century were largely to find precious metals and minerals in the mountains of that island. Early on some gold was found and gold mining commenced in some areas. However, in the past 25 years it has come to light that the island of New Guinea is home to extensive reserves of gold, silver, copper, oil, natural gas and of course timber from the rain forests and fish in the waters that surround it. The people of Papua New Guinea are dealing with an onslaught of companies seeking to develop these valuable natural resources, something that brings the possibility of extensive economic benefits to the people, but also the likelihood of the corruption of political and community leaders, the disruption of tribal life and land ownership, the loss of their unique culture and the degradation of their environment. The people of Papua New Guinea and of the Kotte District could benefit greatly from having faithful, principled partners who will walk with them through the radical changes that are coming to their country and who regard them first as God's precious people and not as the owners of land that is rich in natural resources, or as a labor force to be exploited.

## Some songs in Melanesian Pidgin.

Pronunciation guide

Consonants are pronounced the same as in English.

Vowels are as follows

a = aw as in saw

o = same as in English

e = eh as in let

u = oo as in look

i = ee as in see

ai = "y" (Baibel is pronounced By or buy-bell)

save = saw-vay

This is the Day (that the Lord has made)

**Pigin**

Dispela de, dispela de

God i givim mi. God i givim mi.

Mi amamas, mi amamas

God stap wantaim yu. God stap wantaim mi.

**English translation**

*This is the day, this is the day*

*God has given me, God has given me.*

*I will rejoice, I will rejoice*

*God be with you, God be with me.*

Dispela de God i givim mi.

*This is the day God has given me.*

Mi amamas. God stap wantaim yu.

*I will rejoice, God be with you.*

Dispela de, dispela de God givim yumi.

*This is the day, this is the day God has given us.*

JISAS SORI TRU LONG MI

(Jesus loves me)

1. Jisas sori tru long mi,

*Jesus has mercy on me,*

Baibel tok olsem long mi.

*This the Bible teaches me.*

Long olgeta lain b'long em

*To all who belong to him,*

Jisas sa-ve givim nem.

*Jesus gives to them his name.*

Kores: (chorus)

Em man b'long sori,  
Em man b'long sori,  
Em man b'long sori,  
Baibel i tokim mi.

*He is filled with mercy  
He is filled with mercy  
He is filled with mercy  
The bible teaches me.*

2. Jisas sori tru long mi  
Na i dai b'long wasim mi.  
Olsem na yumi inap  
Go long ples b'long em antap.  
Kores

*Jesus has mercy on me  
And he died to wash me clean  
Therefore we are now welcome  
To join with him in heaven*

3. Jisas, sori tru long mi,  
Oltaim stap klostu long mi.  
Helpim mi bihainim yu,  
Dispela mi laikim tru.  
Kores

*Jesus has mercy on me  
He is always near to me  
Help me God to follow you  
This is what I want to do.*

### **How Great Thou Art**

O Papa God, taim mi gat planti tingting  
Long olgeta samting yu yet wokim  
Mi lukim sta, mi harim klaut i pairap,  
Olgeta samting soim strong b'long yu.

#### **Chorus:**

**Mi litimapim biknem bilong yu;  
Yu yet yu God, yu Bikpela.  
Yu nambawan, yu antap olgeta,  
Yu wanpela, yu Bikpela.**

#### Phonetic Version:

O Papa God, time me got plenty tingting  
Long all-getta some-ting you yet wokkim.  
Me look-im star, me hahr-im cloud ee pire up,  
All-getta some-ting so-im strong blong you.

### **To the tune of *Michael, Row the Boat Ashore***

1. Kam, ol brata, bung wantaim, Alleluia!  
Kam singsing long God triwan, Alleluia!

#### *Phonetic Version:*

1. Come, all brah-ta, boong one time, Alleluia!  
Come, sing-sing long God tree-one, Alleluia!

2. Em i God b'long Hev'n na graun, Alleluia!  
Yumi stap long han b'long em, Alleluia!

#### *Phonetic Version:*

2. Em ee God blong Heav'n nah graun [ground], Alleluia!

You-me stop long Hahn blong em, Alleluia!

3. Kam na harim tok b'long God, Alleluia!  
Em I mekim long ol man, Alleluia!

*Phonetic Version:*

3. Come, nah hahr-im talk blong God, Alleluia!  
Em ee make-im long all man, Alleluia!

Translation:

1. Come, all Christians, join with me, Alleluia!  
Come and praise the Triune God, Alleluia!

2. He is God of Heaven and Earth, Alleluia!  
We are safe within God's hands, Alleluia!

3. Come and hear the word of God, Alleluia!  
He extends his call to all, Alleluia!

### **Lord's Prayer in Melanesian Pidgin**

Papa bilong mipela, yu i stap long heven.(Our Father in heaven)  
Nem bilong yu i mas i stap holi.(Hallowed be your name)  
Kingdom bilong yu i mas i kam.(Your kingdom come)

Laik bilong yu mipela i mas bihainim long graun, olsem ol i save bihainim long heven.  
(Your will be done on earth as in heaven)

Yu givim mipela kaikai inap long dispel de.(Give us today our daily bread)

Yu lusim sin bilong mipela, olsem mipela tu i lusim sin ol arapela i mekim long mipela.  
(Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us)

Yu no bringim mipela long samting bilong traिम mipela. (Save us from the time of trial)

Tasol tekewe mipela long olgeta samting nogut. (And deliver us from evil)

Kingdom na strong na biknem i bilong yu tasol oltaim oltaim.I tru.

(For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.Amen)

### **The Apostle's Creed in Melanesian Pidgin**

Mi bilip long God Papa, I gat olgeta strong, em I as bilong heven na graun olgeta, em yet I kamapim  
(I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth)

Mi bilip long Jisas Kraim, em wanpela tasol I Pikinini tru bilong God, em i bikpela bilong yumi.  
(I believe in Jesus Christ God's only Son our Lord.)

Long pawa bilong Holi Spirit yangpela meri Maria I kisim bel na I karim em.

(Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary)

Long taim bilong Pontius Pailat, em I karim pen, na ol I nilim em long diwai kros.

(He suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified)

Em I dai pinis na ol I planim em.

(He died and was buried)

Em I go daun long ples bilong ol daimanmeri

(He descended to the dead)

Long de namba tri em I Kirap gen long matmat.

(On the third day he rose again)

Em I go antap long heven na I sindaun long han sut bilong God Papa I Gat Olgeta Strong.  
*He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.*  
Em bai I kam bilong mekim kot long ol manmeri I stap laip na ol manmeri I dai pinis wantaim.  
*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Mi bilip long Holi Spirit, na long Sios I holi na I bilong olgeta hap graun,  
*(I believe in the Holy Spirit and in the Holy Catholic Church)*  
Em I bung bilong ol manmeri I holi,  
*(The communion of saints),*  
Na long God I save tekewe sin  
*(The forgiveness of sins,)*  
Na long bodi bai I kirap gen, na long laip I stap oltaim oltaim. I Tru.  
*(The resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen)*

#### **BLESSING OR BENEDICTION**

God i givim blesing long yu na em i was long yu.  
*(God bless you and keep you)*  
God i givim lait long bel bilong yu na em i marimari long yu,  
*(God make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you)*  
God i sori tru long yu na mekim bel bilong yu i stap isi.  
*(God be merciful to you and give you peace)*

## **FOOD FROM OUR COSYNS CHRISTIANS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND RUSSIA**

### **Russian Recipes**

#### **Mushroom and Barley Soup**

2 tbls cooking oil  
2 tbls butter  
½ cup pearl barley  
2 medium onions, thinly sliced  
½ pound mushrooms, thinly sliced  
8 cups chicken bouillon

Heat the oil and butter in a large soup kettle. Add barley and onions. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, for 3 to 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook for 4 to 5 minutes longer, or until the mushroom liquid has evaporated. Add chicken bouillon, carrots, salt and pepper. Bring to the boiling point and skim. Reduce heat to low and simmer, covered, for about 1 hour, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and stir in sour cream. Sprinkle with parsley or dill before serving.

#### **Borshok (beet soup)**

¾ pound beets  
7 to 8 cups chicken consommé  
salt  
freshly ground pepper

Trim and scrub beets. Cook beets in boiling water until tender. Drain and cool. Peel and cut either into thin slices or into ¼ to ½-inch dice. Place the beets in a bowl (not aluminum). Add wine and water. There should be enough liquid to cover the beets; if not, add a little more water. Let beets stand at room temperature for 2 to 3 hours or cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. At serving time, heat the consommé and add the beets, together with their liquid, salt and pepper to taste and sugar if you are using it. Cook, covered, over low to medium heat for 5 to 10 minutes. Strain the soup into a soup tureen or into cups and top each serving with 2 to 3 teaspoons sour cream. Serve hot

### **Salmon Roll** (refrigerated and served cold)

½ lb salmon (cured or canned)  
½ pound cream cheese, at room temperature

If using cured salmon, grind fine in food processor but do not liquefy. Combine salmon and cream cheese in a large bowl. Add dill weed. With wooden spoon or electric mixer, blend thoroughly until the mixture is smooth. Transfer mixture to large sheet of aluminum foil. Using a spatula spread the mixture into a rectangle measuring 12 by 4 inches. Place drained olives lengthwise in a row in the center of the salmon mixture. With spatula, bring the mixture over the olives, forming a closed roll measuring 12 inches in length. Turn the ends of the foil over the ends of the salmon roll and bring up the sides of the foil to enclose the salmon roll completely. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 6 hours or until firm enough to slice. To serve, peel aluminum foil carefully off the salmon roll. Cut into 24 half-inch slices. Place slices on serving plates and garnish with cherry tomatoes, sprigs of watercress, radish roses and spring onions.

### **Kasha** (Farina pudding served hot or cold with fruit)

3 cups milk  
1 cup light or heavy cream  
1/3 cup sugar  
1/3 cup farina or semolina or Cream of  
Wheat (not the quick cooking kind)  
2 tbs sweet butter  
2 eggs, well beaten

Combine milk and cream in heavy saucepan. Add the sugar and bring to boiling. Lower heat. Add farina (or semolina or Cream of Wheat) slowly, stirring with a wooden spoon. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, for about 10 minutes, or until mixture is thickened and smooth. Stir in vanilla. Turn into a serving dish and sprinkle with toasted almonds. Arrange fruit around pudding. Serve warm with Apricot Sauce on the side. Note: If to be served cold or chilled, cool before adding almonds and fruit.

### **Apricot Sauce**

1 cup apricot jam or preserves  
2 tsp cornstarch

Put jam into a small heavy saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until hot and melted.

Remove from heat. Sprinkle cornstarch into the water and stir until smooth. Return saucepan to heat and stir in cornstarch mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, until clear. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice or cognac. Turn into sauceboat and serve hot with Kasha

1 large carrot, thinly sliced

1 tsp salt

¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper

½ cup sour cream (optional)

2 tbs minced parsley or fresh dill weed

2 tsp sugar (optional)

½ cup dry white wine

½ cup water

¼ to ½ tsp dried dill

1 two-ounce jar pimiento-stuffed olives, drained

¼ tsp vanilla ½ cup slivered blanched almonds;

lightly toasted

1 to 1 ½ cups well-drained fresh stewed or canned

fruit such as cherries, thinly sliced peaches, or berries

Apricot Sauce (see below)

2/3-cup water

2 tsp fresh lemon juice or cognac

## FOOD FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

If you should want to get a literal taste of Papua New Guinea, you would want the meal to include Sweet Potatoes, Yams and Taro. They would be boiled, baked or roasted but not candied as we do for Thanksgiving and Christmas. They eat leafy greens such as spinach and cabbage. Other vegetables have been introduced and are a regular part of their diet. The most important thing is that the sweet potatoes and vegetables are cooked in Coconut milk. A major part of their diet is fruits including pineapples, bananas, oranges (although their oranges are more like our lemons) and Papayas. If they eat meat, it is most often chicken (truly free range and home grown) or fish, fresh caught out of the Solomon Sea and even the meat is sometimes cooked in coconut milk.

## SONGS AND PRAYERS FROM OUR COSYN CHRISTIANS.

### Worship ideas from Papua New Guinea

For the prayers, congregations could conclude the petitions and respond as follows:

**A:** Long Marimari bilong God; (*God, in your mercy*)

**C:** Harim prea bilong mipela (*Hear our prayer*)

If there is a processional, consider using one of the songs that could incorporate drums. Even if it is not the drumming rhythm of PNG, it would be a reminder of how important the “Kundu” and “Garamut” is to them. If a conch shell is available, begin worship with the blowing of the conch shell, or, as some congregations in the highlands do it, using a length of plastic pipe or hose. If someone can play a brass instrument, they can make the sound of a conch shell using one of those local options. A shell or length of bamboo or pipe is blown the same way a person blows a trumpet, trombone or tuba.

## Companion Synod Visits

- 1997: To Papua New Guinea  
1999: ELCA Delegation of Women to St. Petersburg, ELCROS  
2000: Synod Delegation to ELCROS; visited several East Russia congregations  
2002: To Magadan from Holy Cross, Overland Park, Kan.  
2002: Teaching in Eastern Russia to Leaders of the eight congregations  
2002: To Papua New Guinea  
2003: To Papua New Guinea  
2004: Teaching in Eastern Russia to Leaders of the eight congregations  
2004: To Kosomol'sk from Atonement, Overland Park, Kan.  
2005: To Magadan from Holy Cross, Overland Park, Kan.  
2006: To Papua New Guinea for a Habitat for Humanity build and Kote District visit  
2007: To St. Petersburg, Moscow, congregations in the Far East  
To Papua New Guinea for church celebration  
2009: From Papua New Guinea by two youth for national youth gathering  
2010: To Arsen'yev with members from Trinity, Great Bend, Kan.  
2011: From Papua New Guinea to participate in 125<sup>th</sup> celebration at Wartburg Seminary and visit congregations in Kansas and Missouri  
To Moscow, Siberia and Russian Far East  
To Kote District, ELCPNG to participate in Stewardship Seminar and sign a Partnership Agreement  
2012 To Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, Khabarovsk, Arsenyev and Vladivostok to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reopening of .St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Vladivostok.  
2013 Gary Teske to the National Synod of the ELCPNG and to the Kotte District.  
To Papua New Guinea to participate in a seminar on Stewardship.  
2014: To Kotte District to deliver laptop Computers, train operators and participate in the centennial celebration of the establishment of the first Evangelist Training School (1914-2014)  
2016: Gary Teske, Daniel Lilienkamp, Alex Lang, Emily Greble, Grace Vannoy, Amy Truhe and Eli Truhe visited the Kotte District.  
2017 In April Gary Teske traveled to the Synod headquarters in Omsk, Russia for the installation of Bishop Alexander Scheiermann.  
2017 Rev. Jon Brudvig, Brian Hoover, Edd Jackson, Gary Kallansrud, Rev. Loren Mai, Delvin and Anita Strecker and Gary Teske spent almost 3 weeks visiting church leaders and congregations all across Russia. This visit took place in late September – early October.

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMPANION SYNOD TEAM**

Pr. Gary Teske, 785-393-0965 (Chair)  
[teskimost@gmail.com](mailto:teskimost@gmail.com)

Rebecca Blocksome, 785-731-1137  
Trinity Lutheran, Lawrence, Kan.  
[rblocksome@gmail.com](mailto:rblocksome@gmail.com)

Rev. Jon Brudvig (620-793-7894)  
Trinity Lutheran, Great Bend, KS..  
[Jon.brudvig@gmail.com](mailto:Jon.brudvig@gmail.com)

Jim Cooper, 785-842-7037  
Trinity Lutheran, Lawrence, Kan.  
[jscooper36@hotmail.com](mailto:jscooper36@hotmail.com)

Emily Greble, (660-287-6669)  
Emilygreble1@yahoo.com

Revs. Keith & Penny Holste, 314-962-6011  
Christ Lutheran, Webster Groves, Mo.  
[pkholste@hotmail.com](mailto:pkholste@hotmail.com)

Edd Jackson of Olpe, KS. 620-639-1157.  
[Ejaxon77@hotmail.com](mailto:Ejaxon77@hotmail.com).

Gary Kallansrud, 314-707-5767  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO  
gkallansrud@sbcglobal.net

Alex Lang, 913-907-0877  
Atonement Lutheran, Overland Park, Kan.  
[alex119ks@yahoo.com](mailto:alex119ks@yahoo.com)

Peggy Schaefer, 636-227-4639  
Trinity Lutheran, Chesterfield, Mo.  
[pbschaefer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbschaefer@sbcglobal.net)

Susan Candea, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop.  
[scandea@css-elca.org](mailto:scandea@css-elca.org)

## **ACCOMPANIMENT' AS THE MODEL FOR MISSION RELATIONSHIPS**

The ELCA has carefully considered means and methods of mission appropriate to this era. "Accompaniment" is the ELCA model for global mission relationships. This model is described fully in the ELCA document ***Global Mission in the Twenty-First Century: A Vision of Evangelical Faithfulness in Gods Mission*** (available at [www.elca.org/globalmission](http://www.elca.org/globalmission)). A primary focus of accompaniment is the mutual respect of the companion with whom mission is shared. Each party to the relationship has the primary responsibility for mission in its area while walking together in mutual support as each carries out its mission responsibilities.

Accompaniment insists that old assumptions be challenged and that we listen to companions' interpretation of their vision of mission and reality. Accompaniment challenges us to overcome the donor- receiver model whereby the Northern (or Western) partner assumes the role of the donor and the Southern (or Eastern) companion that of the receiver. Accompaniment recognizes the two-way dimension for ministry through a mission relationship.

The Central States Synod Companion Synod Team suggests several steps for utilization of the Accompaniment Model for ministry relationships. These steps are appropriate for congregations, area ministries, and other organizations in the Synod that are seeking to develop or expand ministry relationships with companion synods:

**Connect** with a companion synod or with a church body in the companion synod (options described below). Build relationships with the companion synod. This relationship building can be accomplished through mission trips in

both directions, correspondence, e-mails, and other forms of communications.

Commit to making the companion relationship first a **prayer partnership**.

**Plan** ahead. Consult with the Synod Companion Synod Team for critical information on ELCA and Central States Synod relationships with the companion church, its structures, and other partner relationships. Become acquainted with any written agreements the ELCA or Central States Synod has with the companion church.

**Develop a relationship** with a companion church body. Develop a covenant relationship with the companion church body that gives vision and direction for the relationship. Send a delegation to the companion organization. Receive and support a return visit.

**Provide resources and support** for the companion church body to use in mission. However, support should follow relationship building (connection).

**Keep the Synod Companion Synod Team informed** of your relationships and activity. This will assist in providing information to others that are considering the development of relationships with a companion church.