

# *Vision Petrozavodsk*—MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

## Past and Current Examples:

- ❖ Exchange visits/mentoring/encouragement/sharing
  - Participation by members of *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches in periodic “Camps” with the Petrozavodsk congregation (e.g., VBS-like programs for youth, special topics – relational, music, drama, sharing) is an ongoing opportunity- planning is in progress for a group to visit in 2018. In the past this included many members of *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches participating in Friendship English Language Camps sponsored by East European Mission Network.
  - A delegation of 6 from the N.E. MN Companion Synod Task Force visited the Petrozavodsk and several other ELCIR churches and leaders of the ELCIR in June, 2016, to strengthen relationships, explore partnerships, and offer encouragement; a delegation of 6 representing *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches visited in October, 2017, for the same purposes. A delegation of four pastors representing *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches will visit the Petrozavodsk congregation and seminary and ELCIR leaders in St. Petersburg in November, 2018, to listen, learn, encourage, share, and discuss ways to strengthen our *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering ministry relationships.
  - Nadia and Pastor Alexei Krongolm visited *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches and the N.E. MN Synod Assembly in 2008. A similar invitation was extended to Pastor Alexei early 2018, but this is currently being postponed, awaiting processing of his Visa application
  - Group of 7 youth and 6 adults from Saint James Lutheran Church, a *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering church, participated in a 2-week mission program with the Petrozavodsk congregation, summer, 2011
  - Other special visits to the Petrozavodsk congregation by representatives of *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches:
    - ✓2010 for a 40th anniversary celebration of the registration of Petrozavodsk congregation
    - ✓2011 for a 400th anniversary celebration of the founding of the ELCIR
- ❖ Financial support from funds budgeted by *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches and contributed by individuals
  - Yearly salary and ministry support for the Petrozavodsk church as they move towards financial self-sufficiency, a priority for the congregation
  - One-time emergency project to fund completion of the road in front of the newly completed church building was completed by 2015, required by the City of Petrozavodsk in order to remain open -- \$126,000 was contributed by *Vision Petrozavodsk* partnering churches and individuals
  - A new vision is developing to establish a faith-based Day-Care outreach for the community to address a severe shortage – a great opportunity to interest parents in the church. Details are being explored, with an estimated building cost of ≈ \$200,000 – can *Vision Petrozavodsk* help? A faith-based Day-Care would be “breaking new ground” in Russia, an exciting opportunity.

## **Let the Spirit Guide:**

Other examples of opportunities abound: educational courses to deepen and strengthen faith of lay leaders and pastors; a visiting choir can be helpful for outreach; support of the church's diaconal ministry (humanitarian aid outreach); Nadia mentions the value of mentoring/encouragement (e.g., a 2-week visit by a guest pastor); exchange letters/Emails by youth. An increase in current yearly financial support to broaden outreach and training opportunity..

## **Envisioning a Partnership With You:**

For more information about *Vision Petrozavodsk* or considering being a *Vision Petrozavodsk* partner, please call 218-724-4424 . Opportunities for exchanges and interactions, and for financial support, with input from Nadia and Pastor Alexei, the Petrozavodsk church and the ELCIR Bishop, can be discussed to best accommodate your preferences. Nadia and Alexei provide periodic Newsletter updates, as does the *Vision Petrozavodsk* coordinator.