



GOD IS SO GOOD

February 2019

Savior Спаситель

God is so good.

As I write this newsletter, I'm thinking through all of the events of this past month. As I remember each thing that happened, that phrase that keeps coming back into my head is: God is so good.

I see his goodness when I look at the church in Russia, and I see how he is working through his church to proclaim the Gospel message. This church, which has endured so much persecution and so many trials, is always looking for ways to reach out to more people. I've attended a few events recently at St. Mary's designed to engage the youth. Right now, they're trying to build a youth group of sorts and find ways to bring this demographic into the church community. We often take our youth programs for granted, whereas here, this is still a developing territory. In addition to youth work, the pastors at St. Anne's and St. Mary's are continuing catechism courses

for the many people interested in learning more about our faith. These classes are open to anyone, and often are full of people of all ages. After completing the course, participants are given the option of being confirmed and becoming members of the Lutheran Church. I don't know exactly what the statistics are, but in the past year there have been many confirmations—a sign of more people coming into the body of Christ.

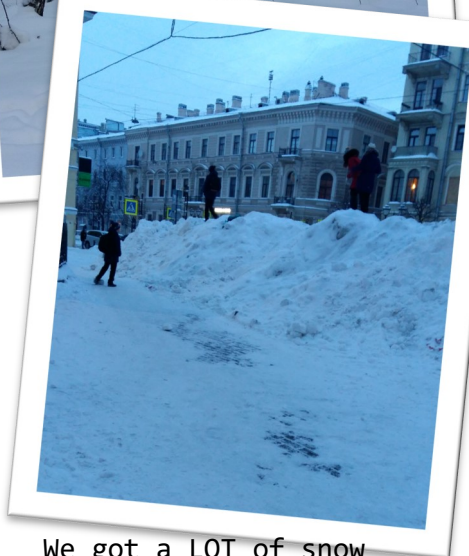
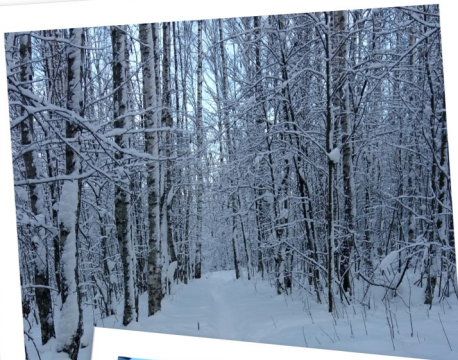
I am reminded of his goodness when I think of how much he has helped me to adjust to living in Russia. This was not an easy adjustment, re-reading my past newsletters is evidence of that. But this time, when I came back to Russia just a few weeks ago, I was pleasantly surprised by how familiar everything seemed and how comfortable I was in this atmosphere. I thought the onslaught of Russian language, cold weather, and distance from family would be a lot of handle, but thankfully, this time I am finding the joy right where I am.

Prayer Requests

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)

- Praise for safe travels back to Russia
- Opportunity to start a new adult conversation class at the seminary
- Continued diligence and growth for the students at the seminary
- Chances to share God's love and truth with the people in St. Petersburg
- Successful planning and preparation for home service



We got a LOT of snow
this January!

If you receive this newsletter
through the mail, but
would prefer the email version,
just let me know!
Send me an email at
alyssa.anders@lcms.org and I'll
gladly make the change.

Support

**I'm now online! If you would like
to support my work in Russia,
visit:**

www.lcms.org/anders

**You can also send your gifts of
love to our Friends at:**

MISSION CENTRAL
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to Mission
Central

Write "Russia/Alyssa Anders" on the
memo line

He is so good to bring faithful preachers
and workers to the harvest fields, and
specifically to St. Petersburg, Russia. I'm
so grateful for Rev. Charles and Connie
Cortright, who have survived life here for
seven months, and Charles has already
been doing his fair share of teaching at
the seminary. God has also provided
many other pastors, church workers,
and seminarians to help support the
church here. And we're looking forward
to the missionaries on their way to
Russia!

I'm amazed by his goodness in
bringing the right people together at the
right times. I realized a long time ago
that there are many things out of my
control (and when I say many things, I
mean almost everything) and who
comes to English classes is one of
those things. I don't know who will sign
up for classes, drop by unexpectedly, or
come with a friend, but I trust that God is
guiding the right people at the right times.

He is good because he gives us strength
and patience to get through each day. As
it says in Lamentations 3, [your mercies]
are new every morning, great is your
faithfulness. This promise is one that helps
me when I have a long day, a long week,
or a particularly hard class to get through.
He gives joy for the days when we have
sunshine and the days when we don't. He
gives inspiration for each new class.

God is good because he provides
opportunities to share and discuss his
truth. During a tutoring session, we talked
about goals for the upcoming year and
then somehow got on the topic of whether
or not heaven existed. During English
club, we started with the topic of
inspiration but somewhere along the way
I was grilled on how I receive help from
God and what that looks like. At the

seminary, the students have completed
memorizing their Psalms and verses from
last year and are already starting new
ones. While trying to get a package
cleared through customs, I told several
people about my church. These
opportunities come when we're not looking
for them and we don't get to control them.

We see his goodness in all of the times he
helps us with visas and work permits. This
seems like a never-ending process and
right now, I and several other foreign
missionaries are getting our work permits
from the Ingrian church renewed. This
involves doing medical examinations and
providing proof that I passed my Russian
language exam, among other things. So
far, everything has gone smoothly and for
that I thank God.

Home Service

His goodness is also shown in the ways
he provides. I'm so grateful for all the
support I've received, and it's time for me
to start thinking about home service again!
It's already been almost two years since I
did my last home service trip, so I'm
planning on coming back to the States this
year around Easter and staying through
May. I've started setting up presentations,
and I'm excited that I'll get to see many of
you again! If I haven't contacted you or
your church yet, please feel free to send
me a message.

Home service is always a busy time, with
lots of traveling and trying to find internet
everywhere I go so I can coordinate for
visits and then, of course, it's busy with
meeting new people, catching up with old
friends, and reconnecting with the people
I've met only a few times. It's busy, but it's
also such a blessing. I always learn from
you all as much as I share—it's wonderful
to see God working in your parts of the
world as well!