

Blaze, Spirit, Blaze, set our hearts on fire . . .

Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, LCMS World Mission, in collaboration with its North American and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Dear *Ablaze!* Partners of the Work in Kazakhstan:

March has quickly passed and we are running late, partly due to health reasons! Thank the Lord that our health has improved. Morris is back at work. Jean is still under doctor's care, but is feeling somewhat better. Pray that she will soon feel better so she can resume working in the flower garden in front of the office :-). It seems that during the month we did lots of celebrating.

- **March 1** -- Ash Wednesday worship service was held at Christ the Savior Lutheran Church. The deacons from the various congregations took turns leading the Wednesday evening Lenten services. Tea was served at six for those interested in coming early and the service began at six thirty.
- **March 2** -- We praised God for the gift of life as our grandson Eli Michael Schmidt (our only grandchild) celebrated his second birthday. He has always enjoyed reading books and when it is bedtime he wants to "pick, pick, pick" his book to take to bed with him. We look forward to our next visit with Eli as he keeps us younger and on the move!
- **March 8** -- We celebrated International Women's Day which is a very special holiday when women in this part of the world are honored. The men from the office treated the women to lunch, presented them with candy and flowers and even had a short program during lunch. Each year the women look forward to this special treatment!
- **March 22** -- The Kazakh New Year was a festive day throughout the city. Lots of celebrating took place in spite of the cool, rainy weather. We watched the usual humongous fireworks display from our balcony.

The building pictured on the right is where St. Peter and Paul congregation has worship services. Plans are underway to transform the site into a multi-purpose ministry center for use by the local congregation, as well as the other congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Center (ELC). Presently the grounds are being cleaned up, a fence has been erected that encloses the area and playground equipment is in the process of being constructed. There is a strong desire by the congregation to utilize the recreation area as an outreach to children in the neighborhood. It will also be used by the various congregations of ELC in conjunction with children's and youth ministry events. The next steps will be getting approval from various city departments for construction of a worship and fellowship hall, and re-registration of the property so that it can be used for worship related functions.



- Pray that God grant us wisdom, discernment and integrity in interacting with government officials concerning the project at St. Peter and Paul.
- Pray for Deacon Sasha B as he leads the congregation in the work.
- Pray that the ministry at St. Peter and Paul will unite the people in the area as God's Word is shared with them.

It is exciting to see this congregation *Ablaze!* and full of enthusiasm to share the love of Christ in their community. We are blessed to be a part of this. Praise God for the opportunities He has placed before us. **To Him be the glory!**

Ablaze! Partners, Morris and Jean Olson