

Russian Project Key Dates & Time line

CTS, SELC & Novosibirsk Seminary

- February 11, 1993 – Vsevolod Lytkin was ordained by Bishop Juno Paula of the Estonia Evangelical Lutheran Church, as the first pastor of the SELC to serve as pastor of the mother church of the SELC in Novosibirsk.
- April 1996 – Pres. Dean Wenthe was approached by representatives of the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation with the request for CTS to establish a program to train Russian speaking men for the holy ministry at Fort Wayne.
- April 1996 – Dr. Timothy Quill was called to CTS to oversee the creation of the “Russian Project.” During the Summer of 1996 he organized the first Summer Seminars in Russia with Rev. Vsevolod Lytkin and traveled throughout the countries of the former Soviet Union recruiting students to study at CTS. The first students arrived on the Ft Wayne campus in September of 1996.
- September 19, 1996 Pres. Wenthe received an official letter from Rev. Vsevolod Lytkin for CTS to help establish a seminary to train pastors *in* Russia. The Schwan Foundation agreed to fund the project. At a September meeting with Pres. Al Barry in Chicago, Pres. Wenthe and Academic Dean William Weinrich received the enthusiastic encouragement from the LCMS President to proceed with the project.
- July 1997 – Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk was dedicated under leadership of Rector Alexey Streltsov. Classes began in October of 1997 with visiting professor Dr. Horace Hummel who taught two ten-week courses (Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament Isagogics). This was followed by courses taught by Kurt Marquart, Arthur Just, David Scaer, William Weinrich, Alan Ludwig, Timothy Quill and Ronald Feuerhahn.
- 1998 – Rev Alan Ludwig was deployed by Concordia Theological Seminary to serve as a full-time professor at LTS and served until retirement in 2018.
- February 2000 – Seminary moved into current building in the center of Akademgorodok (Akademic City).
- November 21, 2002 – Formation of Siberian Lutheran Mission Society as 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization.
- May 2005 – First Graduating Class of five seminarians.
- May 6, 2007 – Rev. Vsevolod Lytkin was consecrated as bishop of the SELC at the Lutheran Cathedral in Tallinn, Estonia.
- December 2010 the CTCR approved fellowship between LCMS and SELC which was ratified at the July 2013 Synod Convention.
- March 21, 2016 – SLMS granted Recognized Service Organization status by LCMS.