

On the 6th of September we had the holiday (dedication of the new building) in the church. According to the plan that should have been the date when the new church should start working but by that day only the first floor of the church was ready. There was a place for 700 people - guests in the church hall. Plus the members of the congregation. So there were about 900 on the whole. □ For me personally it was important to see that there would be enough space for the ministry in the church. There was also a very touching moment when God made me realize that there is a little bit left to wait till it will be opened. Soon very soon ⇒ We hope ⇒

There was a special press-conference organized for the local mass media where the responsible people for the construction building said that they need from 6 to 12 months to finish everything (building project). Still much depends on financial support, you know.

Another special moment was (for me) to present a present from our Sister Congregation



First Lutheran (Duluth). So I was honored to do it and our main pastor Victor was receiving it on behalf of the church (*Note from editor: see the picture of Nadia holding up the banner with Pastor Viktor Grenevitch; the banner was a gift from our church paid for by the Sunday School and made by member Jeanette Pauslon*). These are not just big words—the moment was really special I can say it seeing people listening very attentively to the word of greetings and smiling back. So **please send our words of thankfulness back to First Lutheran and the pastor ⇒** I include a picture from the event ⇒ □ The youth choir was singing at that holiday. The youth sang very well. I talked to some members of the congregation and I heard that they were very glad that the youth prepared for the singing so well.

This week we started the youth meetings at Zaitseva (*Note from editor: youth flat available to the church*). They will be regular on Thursdays. Sunday school started to work from today as well.

□ Next week it will be the first meeting of the teenagers group. It is the group where the youth are mostly new-comers. Of course, perhaps some of them have been to the church once or twice in their lives but they are really new-comers. Vika will be responsible for this group. So we ask you for the prayer support. But Alex and I will be helping. Cause the teens are very different. Some are rather difficult. But no closed doors for God ⇒ you know.

Pentti and Terhi Smeds (*Note from editor: were head of the ELCIR Youth Committee for 12 years, from Finland*) visited us this weekend. It was very important to have a word of support in such sad time when many people are shocked with the news of Ana's father's sudden death and all the situation around it. Pentti and Terhi also shared words of God's love and mercy in Derevjanka and then conducted the services in Petrozavodsk together with Alex. They left today back to Finland after the services. So I think they will come back home only tomorrow morning since they go by car.

Nadia Krongolm