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PROVOST LETTER 01 / 2026

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Thanks!

Dear brothers and sisters,

I greet you all with the words of the Apostle Paul to the Galatians 6:2: *Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.* In this newsletter, we inform you about the life and activities of our Provost District from July to December 2025. Despite difficult times, life in the Provost District continues. Thanks to your support and prayers, the congregations of the district exist and grow. All social projects are carried out and benefit both the members of the congregation and the region's residents. We sincerely thank you for your concern and your help. We understand that difficult times have also come to Germany, and that it is not very easy for you to bear our burdens. For this, we greatly appreciate and understand you. And every Sunday, we pray for peace and for the end of the war. May the Lord bless you and your family.

Bishop Sergej Holzwert

1. Church Children Meeting "This is My Story"



From July 11 to July 13, 2025, the children's meeting "This is My Story" took place at the SALEM site of the Eco Youth Camp, becoming one of the highlights of the summer for everyone involved. For three days, the children immersed themselves in the wonderful world of biblical heroes. Each day was dedicated to one hero: the first day was Abraham, called a friend of God; the second was Joseph, who saw God's faithfulness even in difficult circumstances; and the third was Peter, who received a new story with a new name. Each story helped the children better understand faith and the importance of trusting God. Alongside the Bible sessions, there were many active games. The children enjoyed playing in teams, participating in sports competitions and logic games. The project "This is My Story" helped the children feel like part of a big church family. It was a true journey into a world of faith, friendship, and joy.

2. Music Festival of Christian Choirs and Music Groups in the Groß Legitten Church



On August 2, a music festival of Christian choirs and music groups took place in the Groß Legitten (Turgenewo) Church of the Kaliningrad Provost District. The music festivals of the Evangelical churches (Lutherans, Pentecostals, Baptists, Adventists) are not just concerts, but significant events that bring together believers of different ages and denominations in a common prayer and fill them with joy. They continue to play an important role in the life of the church, inspiring the coming generation to serve and strengthening the communities in faith.

3. Church Day in the Kaliningrad Provost District

On August 23, a Church Day was held at the Resurrection Church in Kaliningrad, gathering representatives from almost all congregations and religious groups of the Kaliningrad region. “I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the mind; I will sing praise with the spirit, and I will sing praise with the mind” (1 Corinthians 14:15). Before the festive worship service, Bishop Sergej Holzwert of ELK ER greeted everyone. During the service, brothers Viktor Bayev and Andrej Gromnjuk were ordained as preachers. Also, little Adelina from the Bolschaja Poljana congregation and Taisija from the Kaliningrad congregation were baptized. After the children had their own program with a children's worship service and games, workshops, a delicious lunch for everyone present, and, of course, horseback riding, the brothers and sisters had the opportunity to speak with the provost about pressing questions and learn about the upcoming celebrations for the 450th anniversary of the Lutheran Church in Russia. And of course, at the end of the meeting, everyone could enjoy a beautiful concert and listen to and watch Larisa Yushkova (organ) and Evgenij Kolesov (saxophone) perform. To conclude, the children were blessed for the new school year and received gifts.



4. Synod of the Kaliningrad Provost District



On 20 September, the next synod of the Kaliningrad Provost District took place. The synod began with a solemn worship service. After the service, the choir of the Resurrection Church in Kaliningrad gave a small concert for the participants of the synod and guests. The celebration quickly turned to business matters, as reports from the provost, the audit committee, the chief accountant, the coordinators for diaconal work and for children's and youth work were heard and approved. The synod made the necessary decisions regarding the budget of the Kaliningrad Provost District and approved a new version of the statutes of the Kaliningrad Provost District. The synod was held on the eve of the Harvest Festival.

6. St Martin's Day



On 7 November, the Resurrection Church, together with the Cultural and Business Centre of the Russian Germans, organized a children's festival dedicated to Saint Martin. The children learnt about the origins, customs and symbols of the festival, got to know the traditional German song “Laterne, Laterne” and took part in a workshop making lanterns. Afterwards, all participants walked together with their self-made glowing lanterns in a festive procession around the church, cheerfully singing the festive song they had learnt. After the lantern procession, horseback riding was organized for the children in the church courtyard. Under adult supervision, all the children were able to ride the horses. Afterwards, the guests enjoyed sweets and hot drinks. When we celebrate “St Martin's Day”, we are reminded not only of Martin the Merciful, the patron saint of the poor. As Bishop Sergej Holzwert addressed the guests at the event, this day is dedicated to charity and compassion.

7. Meeting of the Consistory of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the European Part of Russia



On 30 October, a meeting of the Consistory of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the European part of Russia took place in the Resurrection Church. Archbishop ELK R Vladimir Provorov, Bishop ELK ER Sergej Holzwert, Provost Olga Timerbulatova from the Samara Provost District, Provost Rustem Nafikow from the Tauria Provost District, Provost Viktor Weber from the Central Provost District, and Pastor Aleksander Deruegen from the Saratov Provost District participated. At this meeting, prior to the upcoming General Synod, internal church regulations, the church's development strategy, the training program for youth coordinators, personnel matters and work in the provost districts, as well as other related topics, were discussed.

8. Reformation Day



On October 31, the Union of Evangelical Protestant Churches of the Kaliningrad region celebrated Reformation Day at the Evangelical Lutheran Resurrection Church in Kaliningrad. The festive day began with a greeting from Archbishop ELK R Wladimir Provorov. On this holiday, representatives of the religious organizations of the Muslims, the head of the Armenian Church, the head of the Catholic community, and the chief advisor of the Ministry for Development and Internal Policy of the Kaliningrad region were also present, each of whom gave a welcoming speech to all those gathered. The solemn event continued with a concert, which was based on Christian hymns performed by choral groups from Evangelical Protestant congregations. The festive concert concluded with performances by two Lutheran choirs (the choir of the Samara congregation and the choir of the Kaliningrad congregation). The choirs sang the Reformation hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by Martin Luther.

9. New Preacher in the Congregations of Gusev, Slavsk, and Chernyakhovsk



Since October, Pastor of the Kaliningrad Provost District, Sergej Kivenko, has moved to a new assignment in the Tauria Provost District in the city of Berdyansk. On November 2, Lev Tkachenko was installed as the preacher of the congregations in Gusev, Chernyakhovsk, and Slavsk, replacing Sergej Kivenko. Lev Tkachenko relocated from the Yaroslavl region to the Kaliningrad Provost District. He was born on January 23, 1982, in Baku. He graduated from a theological seminary in St. Petersburg and plans to earn a diploma next year.

10. Youth Ministry

On November 15, the youth group of the Resurrection Church in Kaliningrad visited a Lutheran chapel in the cathedral on Kant Island, and immediately afterward, the congregation in Bolshaya Polyana. They conducted a joint Taizé service, a special prayer meeting filled with songs and silence. Afterward, there was a delicious lunch. A beautiful day left vivid impressions and inspiration for further activities in honor of the Lord.





12. Diaconia – Social Projects of the Provost District

The diaconal work of the Kaliningrad Provost District continues its existence. The following projects are carried out: “Social Kitchen 65+” (Kaliningrad, Gusev, Slavsk), the “Kapelka” group for seniors in the Kaliningrad congregation, “Hot Meals for the Homeless” in Kaliningrad twice a week. Visits to the nursing home of the Carl-Blum-Haus (workshops and music concerts for the residents), home visits to congregation members with distribution of essential products and clothing. The clothing depot remains open (on Sundays, those in need can receive clothing). The coordinator of the diaconal work is still Elena Evdokimova. Special thanks to our partners GAWIS and the Johanniter Association for their financial support of social projects.



«Soziale Küche 65+» Slavsk



«Soziale Küche 65+» Gusev



«Soziale Küche 65+» Kaliningrad



«Warmes Essen für Obdachlosen» Kaliningrad

Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors

We thank all our partners who support us financially and morally. We thank you for your patience and loyalty. It is very important for us to know that we have so many friends and helpers, like-minded people, who support us so wonderfully and with whom we are united in faith.

Our donation accounts to support our work:

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