

Liepa Russian speaking UMC

He will bless those who fear the Lord – small and great alike. May the Lord cause you to flourish, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 115:13-15 NIV)

Praise and thanksgiving to the Great and Almighty God, our Savior Jesus Christ who is not leaving us. He leads us to green pastures and strengthens our souls. With His help we continue existing and He helps us grow, maybe not in ways we would like it to happen, but His will is in everything that happens.

We hold worship at the Russian speaking congregation every Sunday at 2 PM, together with Sunday school. Afterward, children go to their classes. Every Tuesday at 2PM we hold Bible classes. On Thursdays at noon – prayer gathering. Before and during holidays we have varied activities. Children from the After school program and from Sunday School help us make the holidays brighter and better and filled with gospel. During summer we have less classes, but nevertheless we meet and think about what we would like to do in the future. On July 1-3, 2016 we were in Riga to be in fellowship with the FOL. Richard Rudesill and Tim Jones visited us in Liepa.

Also, last year the Men's choir visited us and performed in Liepa Culture Center, many people were able to receive the wonderful message of the Gospel through songs.

As every summer, teens were leading a week-long Christian camp for children near the church – Word of God, where many children heard the Good News about Jesus Christ.

Lots of activities have happened, not all can be mentioned. We continue the previously started traditions, like, on the Saturday before the first Advent, we bring light to the village (children and adults walk through the village with candles stopping at 9 stations). Also, on Christmas, children distribute Christmas cards on the street telling about the birth of Jesus Christ.

On December 18, 2016, our Russian speaking congregation celebrated 20 year Anniversary of our existence in Liepa, with God's help. Special gratitude from our congregation is owed to pastor Andris Vainovskis and his Riga Second UMC for his support on this special occasion. Also, we are thankful to pastor Kristine and her husband, and the Cēsis UMC, pastor Vivita and her husband for attending with their little kids to support us. We are grateful to Hope Center girls for their help and presence. May God bless everyone.

Our goals for the future:

- Go out more on the street with evangelization.
- Start working with men.
- Start conversation with married couples and those who have not yet become married.
- Ministry with women, mothers, granmas.
- Visit the lonely.

There are many visions for our future, but these mentioned are those that worry our souls the most. May God bless us for these ministries.