



ELCA missionaries can be found in all parts of the world. Meet the Rev. Bradn Buerkle and his family who first served in Novgorod, one of Russian's ancient capitals and a beautiful city.

Pastor Buerkle majored in Russian at St. Olaf College, MN, and so was eager to serve in Russia, a country that fascinated him. Fortunately, he was able to serve a congregation in Novgorod that hadn't had a Lutheran pastor since the 1930s; it is now "coming back to life" according to a 2014 article in the Pacific Lutheran Seminary newsletter.

He now serves in St. Petersburg, Russia and is in charge of an educational program called *Equipping for Service*.

Today the ELCR has 50,000 members in 300 congregations across Russia.