

Two Seminary Graduates Installed as Bishops

Recent graduates of our Seminary's extension program have completed a great achievement - they have recently been installed as bishops of ELCROS regional churches - Alfred Eicholtz in the Kyrgyz Republic and Yuri Novgorodov of Kazakhstan.

Albert Eicholtz, 44, took his final theological exams at the seminary in 2004 and was granted a Bachelor's degree from the seminary in 2005 after having passed his colloquium on practical pastoral work. Eicholtz was born in Kyrgyzia when it was still part of the USSR. After emigration to Germany, he returned to his homeland to serve through the church there. He has been especially active in theological education, organizing much of the activity at the study center in Bishkek, and has also been involved in congregational work, including work at helping congregations become financial self-sufficient through agricultural projects.

Yuri Novgorodov, 49, was installed as Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan on June 14th. He has been the head of church administration there since 1997, and graduated from Novosaratovka in 2002. Novgorodov continues to be involved in educational questions related both to the seminary/trade school in Astana and to our seminary, where he took a very active part in the Educational Conference that was held here in the spring.

After nearly 8 years of labor, the seminary and all those who have served here throughout the years are now finally beginning to see the fullness of the fruits of their labor; the seminary was envisioned as the place where future leaders of ELCROS would be trained, and now we see that a number of our graduates are fulfilling our hopes and dreams for them and for this church. Praise be to God!