

LUTHERANS IN JEWISH EVANGELISM



BRINGING Y'SHUA
TO JEWISH PEOPLE, BRINGING
Y'SHUA TO THE CHURCH!

The vision of LIJE is two-fold.

- First, LIJE seeks to engage in intentional evangelism within every significant Jewish community in the United States, sharing Y'shua (Jesus) with all people and especially the Jewish people.
- Secondly, LIJE seeks to connect congregations for training in evangelism and to help our churches understand the Jewish roots of their faith.

In 1973, at the encouragement of Rev. Bruce Lieske, their pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia submitted a memorial to the 1973 convention of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, titled "To Facilitate Gospel Proclamation among Jews." The synod ultimately referred this issue to an ad-hoc committee, headed by Dr. Erwin J. Kolb then the Executive Director for Evangelism of the LC--MS.

This beginning grew into what is now Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism (LIJE). Founded in 1981, Rev. Lieske became its Founder and first Executive Director, and LIJE became the first mission outreach of the LC--MS since World War II. There are 6,000,000 Jewish people in the United States, accounting for 45% of world Jewry.

To minister to this community, we help prepare congregations for ministry to Jewish people through preaching, teaching, writing and workshops while developing branches that are active and intentional in evangelism to the communities where God has placed them.

In 2005, LIJE called Rev. Kevin Parviz as its second Executive Director, and has moved its offices to St. Louis, MO, where it continues a variety of ministries under the structure of LIJE, such as **The Apple of His Eye**, **Burning Bush Ministries**, and **Aish HaEmeth**, working together with **Congregation Chai v'Shalom**, a Lutheran-Messianic congregation in St. Louis. **LIJE is a faith-ministry of the LC--MS, and as such relies on the regular support of those to whom God has called to sustain it with their gifts and prayers.**



As LIJE began, it seemed necessary to develop a "street name" for the ministry as we engaged people on the streets with the Gospel. Early on, LIJE developed branches under the name of The Apple of His Eye (Deut 32:10), and more recently have developed branches under the name of Burning Bush Ministries (Exodus 3). Much of LIJE's ministry is done on the streets and in the coffee houses of the communities where there are branches. Materials and publications designed for outreach are produced through this ministry.

Today LIJE is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LC--MS, and works in Israel, the United States and supports work in the Ukraine. LIJE has a goal of having a branch of our ministry in each of 39 cities that has 20,000 Jewish people or more. For more information on each of these branches, go to our website at www.lije.org.

Every LIJE branch organizes and participates in at least one direct outreach event per month, and plans at least one event per month where unsaved people may be invited to come. These include Chanukkah and Purim parties, Shabbat fellowships and other small-group activities through their

Olive Branch ministry, especially geared toward helping inter-married families talk about Jesus.

Additionally, LIJE produces a periodic prayer letter that is sent to its supporters around the country, called **The Burning Bush**. This letter serves to ...

- inform LIJE's supporters regarding issues in Jewish evangelism,
- share specific prayer needs,
- encourage its supporters with stories from the mission field, and
- help its supporters learn a little more about Jewish people, to the end that they may also engage in the mission of sharing the Gospel with Jewish people.

The Burning Bush also gives its supporters an opportunity to share prayer needs of their own, which are raised up weekly by LIJE staff, the Board of Directors and the Board of Advisors, along with being included in the regular prayers of Congregation Chai v'Shalom and the various branches of LIJE.

Finally, The Burning Bush also provides the opportunity for LIJE's supporters to participate in the mission through volunteer and giving opportunities, with the hope that these things may lead to developing congregational representatives who help to keep LIJE in the hearts of their congregations and ultimately to new branches of ministry in their communities.



Congregation Chai v'Shalom

Congregation Chai v'Shalom is just one of many congregations that, along with individuals, make up LIJE. It is a congregation of the Missouri District of the LC--MS, and is the District's outreach to the St. Louis Jewish community of 70,000.

Member congregations of LIJE support LIJE with their mission dollars and are represented at the fall board meeting. For more information write to:

LUTHERANS IN JEWISH EVANGELISM
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"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Rom 1:16, ESV)



Aish HaEmeth

Center for Jewish-Christian Studies

Aish HaEmeth means "Fire of the Truth" and is the Center for Jewish-Christian Studies in St. Louis. It offers monthly public forums on topics of interest to both the Jewish and Christian communities. It houses an extensive library, and approaches the Jewish-Christian dialogue from the perspective of Biblical theology, Talmudic studies, Jewish History and Chronology, and Apologetics without the impediment of "political correctness" that so often hampers honest exchange in "ecumenical dialogue" between Christian and Jewish leaders.

The centrality of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, and all that that entails, informs the discussion, yet reasonable dissenters are invited to the table and encouraged to engage in the discussion.