

Matthew 28:18-20



18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

“To the Jew first” ... What does this mean?



Romans 1:16— 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.

Where have we been... and where are we going?

The History of Jewish Missions in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

Presented by the Rev. Kevin Parvitz



When was the Lutheran Church-- Missouri Synod founded?

On April 26, 1847, 12 pastors from 15 congregations formed The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States.

This Synod became the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in 1947.



How long was it after our founding that
we called our first missionary to the
Jewish people?

Only 34 years! From early on we had a zeal
to share the gospel with Jewish people.



Jewish missions begins in the LC—MS

1881—Convention

1882—Daniel Landsmann in Springfield

1883—Sent to Lower East Side of Manhattan

1896—37 Jewish were people brought to faith by his ministry.

1896—One of them was Rabbi Nathaniel Friedmann.



Jewish missions continues in the LC—MS

1896-1941—Nathaniel Friedmann (Minneapolis/St. Paul)

1930-1934—Isadore Schwartz (Chicago)

1930-1934—Kenneth Frankenstein (St. Louis)

November 9-10, 1938—Kristallnacht changes everything

November 10, 1483—Martin Luther's date of birth



Our Voice is stilled...

Holocaust

Luther's 1543 booklet "On the Jews and their Lies"

Two-covenant theology—Franz Rosenzweig

July 7, 1913—all-night discussion with friend Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy,
and Rosenzweig's cousin Rudolf Ehrenberg

October, 1913—Kol Nidre leads to "Star of Redemption"



Our Voice is stilled...

Luther's 1543 booklet "On the Jews and their Lies"

Luther's 1523 treatise "That Jesus Christ was born a Jew"

February 15, 1546—three days before Luther's death, his final sermon...



Our Voice is stilled...

“We want to act in a Christian way toward them [the Jews] and offer them first of all the Christian faith, that they might accept the Messiah, who, after all, is their kinsman and born of their flesh and blood and is of the real seed of Abraham of which they boast... We still want to treat them with Christian love and to pray for them, so that they might become converted and would receive the Lord.”--Luther, 1546



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

1973—Convention resolution—St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia,
Pastor Bruce Lieske

Referred to Rev. Dr. Erv Kolb, Evangelism

1974—First meeting of ad hoc committee on Jewish Evangelism

1975—First edition of "Witnessing to Jewish People" by Rev. Bruce Lieske



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

1976—The American Jewish Committee led by Rabbi James Rudin

Moishe Rosen—Jews for Jesus, San Francisco, California

1976—Steve Cohen, lay missionary for Jews for Jesus



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

The Committee on Witnessing to the Jewish People becomes the Task Force for Jewish Missions and is moved from the Board of Parish Services to the Synod's Board for Mission Services.

1981—Lutheran Institute for Jewish Evangelism, Rev. Bruce Lieske, Exec. Dir.

1988—Rev. John Perling, Beverly Hills, CA

1988—Milt Kohut, first full-time missionary as a result of the 1973 res.



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

1981-1993 Rev. Bruce Lieske (Wisconsin) (Lutheran Institute for Jewish Evangelism, adopted "The Apple of His Eye" (Deut. 32:10) as its street name.

1988-1990—Milt Kohut (Los Angeles)

1988-2008—Marc Danzis (NYC—Beth El Messianic Congregation LC—MS)

1990-1991—Dave Tengbom (Los Angeles)

1992-1996—Darla Schmidt (Chicago)

1993-2005—Rev. Bruce Lieske, Apple of His Eye, FL/GA (Orlando)

Name of the organization is officially changed to
Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism (LIJE)



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

1996—Steve Cohen, Jennifer Krupp and Kevin Parviz begin the Missionary Training Center in St. Louis

September 22, 1996—The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Apple of His Eye—MO, and Congregation Chai v' Shalom Inaugural Svc.

1997—Conflict/confusion arises...Steve Cohen leaves LIJE but keeps the "Apple" name, Jennifer Krupp leaves mission.

1997—Rev. Kevin Parviz continues to work with Steve Cohen and Rev. Bruce Lieske.



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

1998—as a result of the confusion, Board for Mission Services no longer includes Jewish missions.

April 18, 1998—Inaugural worship service for Congregation Chai v'Shalom

August 22, 1998—Rev. Kevin Parviz becomes first certified Church Planter and Missionary-at-Large for the Missouri District.



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

1996-Present—Rev. Kevin Parvitz (St. Louis)

1998-Present—Congregation Chai v'Shalom (St. Louis)

1999-Present—New branch of ministry for LIJE, adopted new street name of Burning Bush Ministries (Detroit)

March, 2005—Rev. Bruce Lieske retires, Rev. Kevin Parvitz, Exec. Dir. LIJE



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

2010—Rev. Kermit Rickenberg is called to replace retiring Rev. Bruce Lieske as director of Orlando branch and to begin new fund-raising model for LIJE, Books for Missions (now Support for Missions & new branch of Aish Ha Emeth.

2019—Linda Morris (Dodi Yavoh) comes full-time to LIJE to serve our ministry in Israel.



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

Status as of today: 1981—present; Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism, Inc.
(RSO) (Burning Bush Ministries)--Rev. Kevin Parvz, Executive Director

Los Angeles: 1988—1990; 1999—2005; 2020—present; vacant

Orlando: 1993—present; Rev. Kermit Rickenberg; Support for Missions



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

St. Louis: 1996—present; Rev. Kevin Parvitz; Aish HaEmeth,
Apple of His Eye—MO Congregation Chai v' Shalom

Detroit: 1999—present; Mary Lou Temple

Israel: 1999—present; Linda Morris (Dodi Yavoh), Andy Ball (Tel Aviv Bible
Society)

S. Florida: 2007—present; Alan Butterworth (retired);
Rev. Deon Hull, 2023—present



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

CrossPollination Ministries (campus ministry & immigrant ministry):
2008—present;

Minneapolis/St. Paul: 2017—present; Kurt & Barb Anderson

Mid-Michigan: 2020—present; Suzanne Hall

Missionary-at-Large: 2023—present; Deaconness Liz Melin (eastern KS)

Space Coast, FL: 2023—present; Eric Bentley



Modern Jewish missions in the LC—MS

The vision of LIJE is two-fold:

First, LIJE seeks to engage in intentional evangelism within every significant Jewish community in the United States (39), 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.



"To the Jew first" ...What does this mean?



Prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you into short-time volunteer or full-time ministry among Jewish people.

There is (or will be) a branch of Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism near you. Will you help?

Call Rev. Kevin Parviz at (314) 645-4456
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