



Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

Church as Sanctuary

*A Ronning Centre Consultation
with Richard Hergesheimer*



Mr. Mikhail Lennikov and his family began attending First Lutheran Church some years ago. In the 1980s he had worked for the KGB in the Soviet Union. Along with his family, he had been in Canada for over twelve years when his application for permanent residency was caught up in new rules associated with the war on terror. First Lutheran offered Mr. Lennikov sanctuary when the Canadian Border Services Agency decided to deport him. He has been living at the church since Tuesday, June 2nd, 2009. Why has the church done this? What have the implications been for the Lennikovs and for the church?



Richard Hergesheimer is the pastor of First Lutheran Church who befriended the Lennikov family. He has served the church for many years and has become an articulate spokesperson for the responsibility of the church to provide sanctuary in particular cases. He has spoken at length about the Lennikov on national CBC radio.

Monday, 17 October, 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
10014 – 84 Avenue, Edmonton

Tuesday, 18 October, 7:00 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church
4810 – 50 Street, Camrose

Wednesday, 19 October, 7:00 p.m.

Advent Lutheran Church
11 Scenic Acres Gate, Calgary

No pre-registration is required, and there is no fee to attend this event.

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