



In This Issue



Happy Thanksgiving!



A Lutheran Wedding



Christmas in Islamabad



**Take It To The Lord in Prayer**

Sometimes people come forward after our Sunday service to ask for special-need prayers relating to family life issues, financial needs or medical challenges. We take everything to the Lord our God in prayer because we believe James 5:15-16. Only because we have been redeemed are we righteous, and therefore we know that our prayers are effective. We can count so many blessings that flow from His divine grace and generosity to the Lutheran children of God in Pakistan.

Please pray with us. We have been earnestly praying for God's favor to supply a **new building** option, where we could have room to accommodate more people. The property we had been keeping our eye on appears to be sold to another buyer at a price that exceeded our budget. Here are a few glimpses of children sitting next to the Altar area, sometimes touching the pastor's albs or the baptismal font. We are so thankful for those who have partnered with us through our building fund.



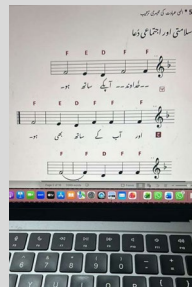


## The Vespers Project

In our drive to produce a complete selection of liturgical worship services for our Urdu hymnal, we have begun our work on Vespers. This is of course meant to be used for Advent and Lenten worship on Wednesday evenings. There are ultimately three versions of it to be produced: 1) English, 2) Roman Urdu, and 3) Urdu Script. Up to this point we have produced Divine Service III in all three versions, and the Order of Matins in English and Roman Urdu with Urdu Script remaining yet.



At left is one of the consultations we have had out of many with local Christian educators, professional linguists and poets at the Mission House. These experts help us in choosing appropriate vocabulary and phraseology for our translation project. Reverent Christian terminology is used less often in Urdu than it was 50 to 75 years ago.



The few remaining Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopal and Catholic churches in Pakistan are very interested in our work. Because European music notation is not in common use, these churches have only lyrics in their hymn books which results in poor singing.

## Julie's Girls

A lot of people call our female students "Julie's girls" because she is involved in each life personally, especially those who don't have a mother at home. Please pray for Rakhil, Annie and Laura. Growing up without a mother in Pakistan is a challenge. We thank God that we are able to show them how precious they are.



## Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is commanded in scriptures as a means for us to acknowledge God's gracious gifts to us, which are only good because they come from Him. This acknowledgment began with creation, when God Himself paused each day to announce its goodness and then set aside the entire seventh day as 'holy' and meant for humbly commemorating His perfect work apart from anything we do on our own.

At St Mark Lutheran Church in Islamabad, we have so much to be thankful for. Our church body, Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan, began as only a concept that was prayerfully incubated over several years as Pastor Jay Dass was completing his seminary education. In 2021, we had permanent boots on the ground with a very thin budget, and God has blessed us beyond expectations. We are now

approaching 300 baptized Lutheran church members with 45 students in our school. And now we have a Building Fund gathering the means to accommodate our growth in believers. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

We had a special meal for the occasion, which took a lot of hard work from our kitchen help, headed by Julie (left). This brings to mind so many of our blessings that came about just this year, things that are probably somewhat take for granted in the U.S...like clean water, quality utensils, cooking equipment, and ongoing donations that allow us to purchase good food. Our leadership (below), headed by Pastor Jay and Pastor Hannan, begins with prayer.



## A Lutheran Wedding



We welcomed our first newly wedded couple on the First Sunday of 2026. Pastor Hannan officiated at his brother's beautiful ceremony, along with Pastor Jay, at St Mark Lutheran Church. We prayed with Nouman and Asther, asking for God to bless and build this new family with His love, peace and prosperity. Thanks be to God!

## Happy New Year in Islamabad!



When the clock strikes 2 pm on December 31<sup>st</sup> on the east coast of the United States, it is already 12 am January 1<sup>st</sup> in Islamabad, Pakistan! New Year is celebrated differently among Christian communities here in Pakistan. We hold a midnight service to thank God for the previous year, and welcome the next year praying for God's blessings in all that we say or do. Our midnight service is very similar to a Christmas Eve Service, and then we have a full Divine Service for New Year's Day around 10:30 am. Another beautiful tradition is that many of our members want to recite scriptures and sing special hymns as a thanksgiving to God, including the children. What a lesson for American Lutherans! During our worship, we welcomed a few new members into our congregation again this year. Thanks be to God!



## Christ the Savior is Born!

We at St Mark Lutheran Church feel called to bring the real meaning of Jesus' birth to Pakistan at Christmas! Of course, the primary witness is through our public worship. The widespread belief in Pakistan is that Jesus is recognized as just a prophet, but the Gospel message that he is God incarnate sent to suffer, die and be resurrected for our sakes needs to be heard! The children are a well-trained choir that can sing Christmas hymns in both English and Urdu at the same time. A local restaurant that gets a lot of foreign visitors wanted a Christian Choir to sing Christmas carols in both languages in their courtyard and invited us to create atmosphere around the firepit. So the kids dressed in red coats and caps and distributed chocolates to the children around us. Afterward we went caroling in the streets with our harmonium and two-sided drum. The Praise Team responsible for all of this is shown with Pastor Jay and Pastor Hannan in front of the Christmas tree in our Mission House. A donor blessed us by shipping in much needed jackets for the children along with other Christmas gifts that we happily distributed.



Your prayers are needed for the 17 children at St Mark Lutheran Church whose Christmas joy is affected by not having a set of parents, especially those without a mother. We pray for a larger building to allow us to fully accommodate all of them.



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Thank you partners for your support and encouragement. The children in our school are the future Lutherans for this groundbreaking church in a land of hungry souls.