



St. Mark Lutheran Church

UPDATE FROM THE MISSION FIELD

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"He First Loved Us"



The Bible-Singing Church



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LCCPMISSION.ORG



A Note from Pastor Dass

Thanks be to God! After spending Christmas in the U.S., we have arrived back in Pakistan safely and are back to work. It is nice and warm to Worship together with our beloved congregation and especially these little ones. St. Mark Lutheran Church Islamabad-Pakistan has built a very faithful team who serves God with their whole heart.

We thank all of you for your prayers, gifts and support always. Enjoy a few glimpses of what is happening in the mission field.

God's Love Flows Through His People



We returned back to the mission field to find that more gifts had arrived for the children. The winter is harsh and resources are few, so they can greatly benefit from these warm under

garments to keep their little hearts warm with love. Every child received two sets of warm garments. We had to put the Christmas banner in the background as these were Christmas gifts which were delayed due to shipment challenges that we face.

Three Adopted Families

Sometimes it's the least noticed people that are so important to the church service. These 3 families have contributed a lot to our lives. When we brought them home, we didn't know what to do. God had a place for them. He gave us love for them, enough to share our lives and blessings with them. Pray especially for the Christian people and all who are in bonded labor (a kind of slavery) in Pakistan. We have 11 children and 6 adults in our adopted immediate family in Pakistan. Thanks be to God.



Family 1 that we brought home in 2022



Family 2 that we adopted in 2022



Family 3 that we adopted in 2023

It makes sense to talk about the abundance of gifts from God around Christmastime, as many will talk about how this is an expensive time of the year. Our partners have loaded us with gifts with God's abundance. Thank you partners for asking about their needs and for your willingness to help. We pray for continuous abundance for all who provide for their poor brothers and sisters. Thanks be to God for His faithful people.



R-L photo above: Pastor Hannan, Kurrum Masih, Imran Masih, Shafi Masih (Masih is a common last name among Christians as they are converted from many religions and adopted Messiah's name as their last name.) Glory be to God.

Khurum Masih helps at the Mission House, while Imran Masih helps at the St. Mark building. Shafi Masih is literate and helps with many things at both places.

"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward." Matthew 10:42



Meet Naomi, one of five girls in a culture where everyone welcomes or wishes for a male child. It's not easy to change a culture but we are trying to make a difference. Julie is crucial to reaching the ladies, and this is the importance of deaconess training for more ladies in the near future. We request your prayers for these five girls, and their mother especially, as they are going to receive an education and will make a difference for other girls.



1 John 4:19 was the theme for the Valentine's Day party for children. The children learned that it's not only about candies and flowers, but God's love which is the base of all celebrations in life. They received gifts of hygiene kits wrapped in red bags. A dinner was served and children had games, fun poems and a hymn singing competition.



Pastor Hannan was meant to be a pastor and his kind gestures and behavior are making a difference here at St. Mark Lutheran Church and School.

Julie is a natural mother and teacher, like many women around the world. She can calm the wildest child and make them sit in class or church like they never knew anything other than best behavior. The children were happy to receive her and she was ready to hug and cuddle with them.

Both Pastor Hannan and Julie, with the help of our good team of teachers, are making a difference in the lives of these little ones. Thank you all for your prayers and partnership in this mission.



In Pakistan, women don't shake hands with pastors (pastors are considered elders, like a father or brother). Instead, pastors or the respected men in their lives place their hands on the women's heads and bless them. I find it a humbling and honorable gesture from men. Pastor Hannan is putting his hands on the head of women as old as his mother because he is a pastor. Thanks be to God.

The Bible-Singing Church

At LCCP, we've gained the nickname "the Bible-singing church." It's a title that humbles us, as it reflects our commitment to sharing Christ through the liturgy and hymn-singing. What's even more remarkable is how our worship resonates with people outside the church, including non-Christians in Islamabad. The chanting, done with reverence and humility, touches hearts in ways we never expected.

This past Christmas season, the children at St. Mark Lutheran Church and Concordia Lutheran School have been shining examples of faith in action. They memorized Scripture and hymns to prepare for a public performance of Christmas carols at a large hotel on Christmas Eve. It's incredible to see how much they've grown. One Pentecostal pastor has even started sending children to join us for liturgy practices and catechism lessons. What a blessing to welcome them!

Our last music practice for 2024 was filled with joy as the children sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" in both Urdu and English. Brother Dave Koch has been instrumental in leading this work, and the school children ask to see him via Zoom to share their gift of song.

Going into 2025, our Liturgy Practice continues! Thanks to Brother Dave Koch for his time and continued love of teaching. We have finished the translation of liturgy into Urdu for Service Setting III, Matins, and hymns, and now are starting to learn the English part for a few of our foreigner friends and visitors at Grace Lutheran Church.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to proclaim Christ with joyful song!



Farasat (on the left) and Simon are our music and liturgy team. They are working hard to train the congregation and the children with the help from Dave and Julie.



Ejaz plays a drum kind of instrument for the church choir.



LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

The children here at Concordia Lutheran School Islamabad and St. Mark Lutheran Church had a Zoom meeting with a Lutheran school in Houston, TX. Children from both sides learned something they had in common when they sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" and "Jesus Loves Me" in both Urdu and English.

We gathered at 6PM to have dinner and then a Zoom at 8:30PM. Yes, it was late but all the excitement to meet with our Christian brothers and sisters across the sea was great. It was fun and we look forward to connecting with other schools in your areas.



We had fun as we gathered for the Zoom meeting. The children sang their favorite poems and it was a fun time for students and teachers. We have decided to repeat this setting once every month. If your church is interested then we can arrange a Zoom with you on Wednesday or Friday morning. Please contact us on [Facebook](#) or www.lccpmission.org. Thank you for your prayers and support.

We want to thank our board members, James Swanson and Rheagan Taylor, and especially our board president, Bill Frerking, and Kim Peterson Bohot for making this meeting possible.



We are thankful for our security cameras. The children feel comfortable and secure. Praise God for all the blessings and for this gift.

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on at LCCP!



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and search for "Lutheran
Confessional Church Pakistan"



John Kerry and Lazarus are two brilliant students in our school. They received no schooling until the age of 11 and in just 2 years, they have accomplished a 4th grade level education. Please keep them in your prayers. Praise God for all the blessings that we have here at St. Mark Lutheran Church and Concordia Lutheran School building.

Thank you to all who pray for and support us.

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Pray for these little ones to grow in faith
and wisdom while they study at
Concordia Lutheran School Islamabad-
Pakistan.