



## In This Issue

## UPDATE FROM THE MISSION FIELD



### Rooftop Thanksgiving



### New Uniforms & Gifts



### Christmas Program

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We are getting Advent and Christmas ready, the little children are decorating their church with little hands and smiles on their faces. I wish you could walk through this church and appreciate how little resources we have and encourage our team including, Pastor Hannan, deacons, teachers, support staff and children, and of course Julie who is behind all the excitement. Thank you all who pray and partner with us in this mission. God is good.

We house 6 children with us at the "Mission House/Seminary House", where we live on the main floor. 5 Children and 2 adults live at St. Mark during the good weather but in Winter they have to be moved back at the Mission House due to harsh weather and no heating in upstairs rooms at St. Mark Lutheran Church. All together we have 11 children and 6 adults living with us. They wanted to decorate the tree before we leave, so we did the tree the day of Thanksgiving. They had fun and enjoyed a nice meal afterwards. Thanks be to God.







We are now known as the "Lutherans who do Organized Church Service". Believe it or not, our children are able to share with other children the whole Divine Service Setting III and Matins.

Many Pentecostal Churches bringing their Sunday School Students to learn Lutheran Liturgy at St. Mark Lutheran Church Islamabad. I don't know what God has in store for us but we are happy to take any and all children and adults to teach them.

## A Note from Pastor Dass

*"I was glad when they said to me,  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"*  
Psalm 122:1

Let me not cry by telling this Thanksgiving Service at the 3rd floor rooftop.

It's not easy for Julie to climb up this much stairs but she has to go with us or at least one woman should accompany us as per tradition (when you are invited for a home worship service.)

Psalm 122 is a favorite Psalm here and I started with this to invite them to the House of our Triune God.

5 brothers in 50s-70s, their spouses, their married children and their spouses, their grandchildren and some in laws with their children. It made a group of 50 people who were on this rooftop holding a thanksgiving service on a chilly December evening. This was the most beautiful sunset that you can observe while worshiping, the most beautiful people and the smells of slums were not bothersome at that height.



We had a thanksgiving dinner after the service that this family offered.

I promised to my God, I will go wherever you take me, and He takes me to new places. Thanks be to God for all the blessings and His faithful people said Amen.



## The Season of Advent



*And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." Acts 2:38-39*



*Pray for the Peace of the World and particularly for Pakistan.*

This political rally/riot goes on every few months and locks us in for a few days. The Sunday before Thanksgiving was the same. The internet and cell phone signals were in and out. But we were able to worship together in the morning at Grace Lutheran Church, which is in the basement of the Mission House. We have regular service every Sunday in the evening here at Grace Lutheran Church. The evening service does not take place during any shutdown/lockdown or whatever term we can use.

Thanks be to God for all the blessings and thank you for your prayers and support.





A Day at the Park with Concordia Lutheran School, Islamabad children and staff. We are thankful to our God, Who provided us with faithful pastor, teachers, volunteers and workers. Julie was able to go to park finally and participate with all who work hard. Pray for our workers here who take care of children.



## New Uniforms and Hygiene Kits

90% of the parents cannot afford children wearing a nice pair of pants or a shirt, so it was decided to keep the children in uniform so they all look clean and feel the same. Uniforms not only will develop a sense of cleanliness but the hygiene standards will be maintained at same level in all children. We started giving out hygiene kits Thanksgiving week, so they will all come neat and clean.

It is not about cleanliness but also self esteem that they are dressed like others and there's no status bar between children from more poor or less poor families. God loves them all the same way and we do too.





**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



The children at St. Mark Lutheran Church/Concordia Lutheran School Islamabad-Pakistan displayed their faith via a competition for the memorization of scriptures, a Christmas Play and hymn singing. "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" is a favorite here with the children. They sing it perfectly in Urdu and are now learning it in English. Thanks be to God for all the partners in the mission who make it possible by their prayers and support.



*"We Three Kings"*

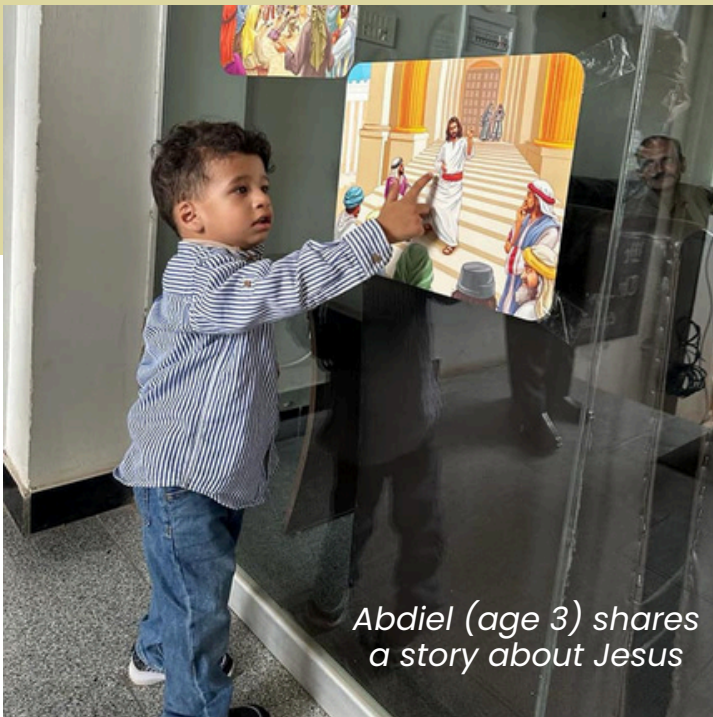
*The neighborhood children came to learn the Christmas Story, some are not Christian. Our precious children are the littlest evangelists. Thanks be to God!*



## PRAY FOR OUR TEENAGE GIRLS

We are providing them a safe and secure environment. This girl started at our school at the age of 13, and now at 15, she can read and write in English and Urdu, and is able to teach younger children. Our teachers are doing a great job. Because of our van, our little girls, young female teachers and little boys all travel in freedom and safety. These precious little ones are thankful.





Abdiel (age 3) shares  
a story about Jesus

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Last year our mission  
partners provided 2  
workers to be able to  
own a motorcycle.  
This is how they use  
the motorcycles.  
Thank you mission  
partners.

*Everything is a gift in this photo; the gift of  
faith and life from our God, motorcycle,  
shoes, neck warmers, gloves and hats.*

*We are not done with thanksgiving yet, it's something every day that happens here at St. Mark Lutheran Church and School. Footballs and basketballs might be too small of a mention but only if you get a chance to play with one. We received 21 of them last year and it was a surprise when we were only expecting shoes and jackets for winter.*

*Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow, yes thanking God in everything that's what we do as Lutherans here in Pakistan. We are thankful for every little thing that we receive from God and from you all.*