



In This Issue



New Building Lot!



Holy Week in Islamabad



Reciting Catechism

LCCPMISSION.ORG



Sing to the Lord a New Song (in Urdu!)

Our goal to become the premier source of published confessional liturgical worship and hymnody in the Urdu language for Pakistan is an enormous project for our new denomination that is taking shape! The praise team at St Mark Lutheran Church meets multiple times weekly in our Mission House (above) to meticulously focus on the details of translation and how they merge with the music. Martin Luther fought to preserve the traditional liturgy of the early confessional Christian church. There is some background in liturgy over the years among other Pakistan denominations like Church of Pakistan or the Roman Catholics, but it is poorly written and the music is performed from memory.

آسمانی جلالی حمد ~ آسمان پر خداوند کا جلال ہو۔
 3* ای مہدستی ہماری لکھیں
 2:14; 2:29
 ۴/۴

G A B A A G F E F

آسمان پر خداوند کا جلال ہو اور زمین پر آسمانی سلامتی اور - غلبہ۔

G F E F F F F

آ ہم تیری حمد کرتے ہیں، تجھے مبارک کہتے ہیں ہم تیری پرستش کرتے

Urdu Script requires a right-to-left format (see inset). The red English characters above the notes correspond to the labels we have placed on our keyboard. Worshippers who use this material simply determine whether the tone (cont'd on page 2)





(cont'd from Page 1) of the melody they are singing should go up or go down. Over time, use of the liturgy gently teaches the faith and imprints it on hearts.

It has been very acceptable to new participants because they recognize its use of Scripture, and we are now known in the small local Christian community as the "Bible-Singing Church"! A nearby Catholic church has asked our keyboard player to lead them in using Divine Service III. Pentecostal pastors have been sending children to the music classes we hold for our own member children. We provide a 'Roman Urdu' version (phonetic English characters in left-to-right format) for the younger generation that sends texts that way. What a mirror of the days of the Reformation this has become, with the Bible and Catechism at the center of education!

Our New Building Lot



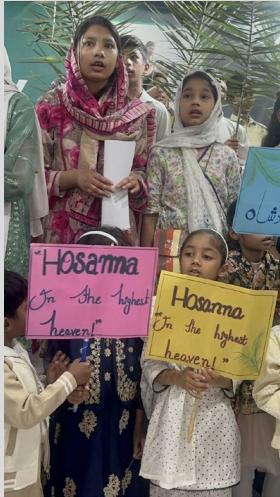
We have purchased the new lot in Islamabad on which we plan to construct our next larger St Mark Lutheran Church and School building this year. To minimize cost in a densely populated urban setting, it is only approximately 3,600 square feet in size. But it will accommodate a six-story building to house a sanctuary for 300 worshippers and a school for 200 students. We are thankful for the management skills that Pastor Jay Dass brings from a previous career as a contractor in Florida to help us navigate the capabilities of the subcontractors. The loca-



tion is very close to our current one, in an area with narrow streets where many of our church members live. We also discovered that highway development would force us to move in a year anyway! God guides! Your prayers and support are deeply appreciated.



Palm Sunday Begins Holy Week!



Easter Vigil!



He is Risen Indeed! Alleluiah! Happy Easter!



Lutheran Education for the Next Generation



The children at St Mark Lutheran School will be the engine for the future of Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan. Classes in Biblical studies, Luther's Small Catechism and Lutheran Liturgy, plus classic elementary training, form the core of our approach. Lazar (far left) has overcome an early childhood eye injury to become a brilliant student who aspires to become a Lutheran organist. John (near left) has demonstrated his ability to recite the 10 Commandments and other Catechism sections. We pray for the shaping of these tender hearts.

Newlyweds Visit St Mark

What would be your first action together after being newly married? In Islamabad, on the second Sunday of Lent and the third Sunday after their marriage, Asher and his wife Rimah made their first visit as a couple to St Mark Lutheran Church. We had a special prayer for them after the church service and invited them to our fellowship meal. Our attraction of new members continues!



The Faith of a Child



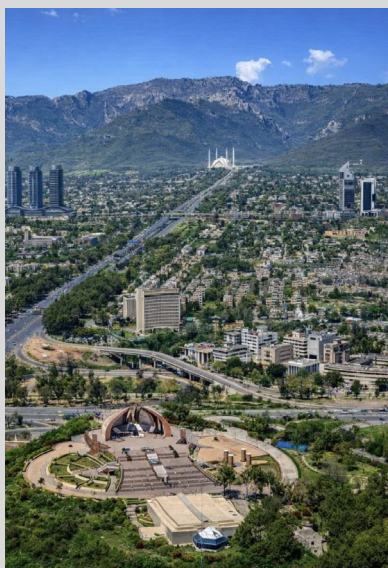
We have adopted a number of children who were either orphans, members of rescued slave families or in distress. They are being educated in the Christian faith and were given a very inexpensive gift of a pet to care for – goldfish! Knowing to always bring their needs to the Lord in prayer, a couple of the children came to Bishop Dass with a request: “Please pray for our fish.” Of course!



We thank the Lord for all of His gracious blessings, especially this rented Mission House! It is a safe place to live and to facilitate meetings with Jay and Julie.

Pray for Peace!

Your prayers are requested for the peace negotiations between the U.S. and Iran that the government in Islamabad has been facilitating. We are well, but tight security raises costs, hampers traffic and slows internet signals.



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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.

