



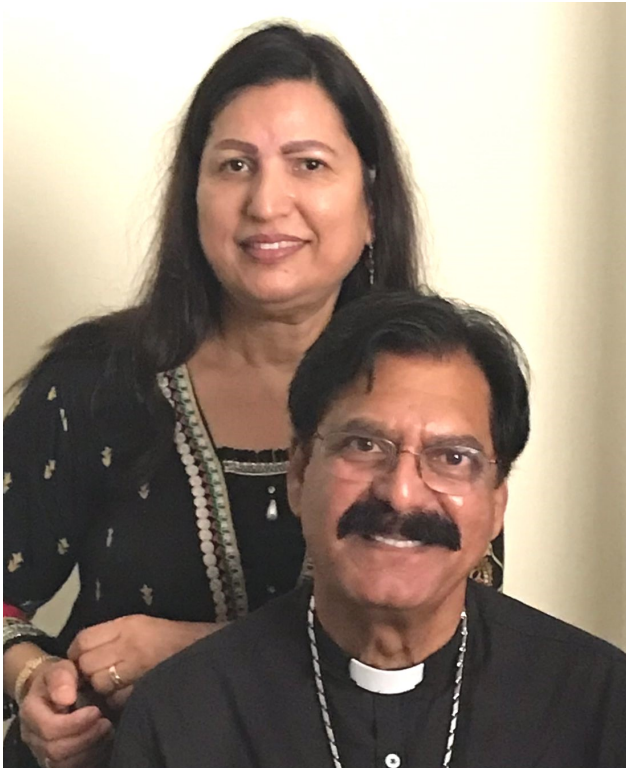
# Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan

لوتھرن کنفشنل چرچ پاکستان

Mission Update 2022



*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news. Isaiah 52:7*



## Reverend Jay & Julie Dass

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Rev. Jay Dass and his wife, Julie are third generation Christians who emigrated to the United States in 1983 from Pakistan. Jay quickly found work, continued his education, and eventually owned his own Electrical Contracting business. He and his wife lived comfortably in Naples, Florida raising their two sons and worshipping at the local Presbyterian Church.

In 2010 Rev. Bob Scudieri invited them to visit Faith Lutheran Church to speak about Christianity in Pakistan and the influence of Islam. The Dass' were immediately drawn to the traditions of Lutheran Worship and began attending regularly. They eventually were catechized by Sr. Pastor Donald Treglown. Not soon after, Julie became actively involved in the Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML), began *Voice of Faith* ministry that reached out to Muslim women and co-authored a book called, *The Despicable Missionary*. The Dass' started

traveling and speaking at LWML rallies and conventions and they deeply sensed God's call for something bigger than their comfortable life in Naples.

Jay's first mentor was the late, Rev. Bruce Lieske. His friendship and encouragement to become more involved in local church work had a profound impact on Jay's faith. On more than one occasion, Jay was asked to prayerfully consider an online education in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. However, it was not until he met Rev. Timothy Droegemueller that this next step in faith was clear. Jay calls it, "a defining moment for my seminary admission."

It all began to take shape in 2016 with the assistance of Faith Lutheran-Naples, Pastor Droegemueller, FL/GA District President Rev. Greg Walton and English District President Rev. Jameson Hardy. Jay answered his call and enrolled in Concordia Seminary. Shortly after that enrollment, Jay and Julie made a move to Georgia to be closer to his mentor, Pastor Droegemueller. His vicarage was at Living Faith Lutheran Church, Cumming, GA. This congregation immediately became home for the Dass'. During their time at Living Faith, they made new friends, gained emotional and physical support, and connected with several faithful servants who now serve on the LCCP Mission Board. The connection with Jay's education as an ethnic pastor, a mission minded mentor and an outreach-focused congregation was not by accident. This was the intentional work of the Holy Spirit.

Discussions about Pakistan had come up frequently. On one occasion, while discussing a martyred missionary, Jay expressed his concern for the heresies in the Christian church in Pakistan. Some may say it was a divine coincidence that Pastor Droegemueller was attending an LCMS Missions meeting and shared Jay's story and concerns. Jay recalls the conversation ended with a harmonious, "we need to get our foot in Pakistan!" The seeds of a church plant had been sown and God's immediate call was evident.

Rev. James Krikava, Director of Eurasia Mission (OIM) was immediately in contact with Pastor Droegemueller to work through a "who, what, how" mission plan for Pakistan and in the Spring 2019 Jay and Julie made their first visit to Pakistan. Prior efforts to start a Lutheran church in Pakistan were halted due to lack of resources and direct mission involvement. No Lutheran Church had ever been formed in the country. The Dass' were assisted by Shan Masih (one of the now seminary students) to run a social media campaign and set up interviews with well educated, faithful young men who desire to speak on the needs of the Christian Church in Pakistan. Over thirty men were interviewed. They shared openly about the recent growth of the church and how it has caused many clergy members to be self-trained/self-proclaimed pastors.

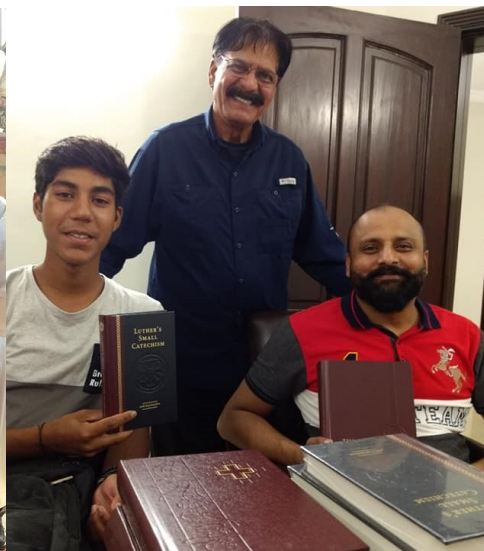
Surprisingly, the greatest concern was not persecution of the church but the abusive power the church has over the poor Christian community. The visit was successful with nine men accepting “the call” to serve as Lutheran pastors in Pakistan. The Dass’ would return to the United States with a full report and the OIM’s work on how to provide Lutheran Theological training for the “Nine in the Line” immediately began. The most economical option at the time was to assist the nine in securing student visas and transportation to Luther Seminary in Riga, Latvia for their official education. Jay would mentor the students throughout their education since he could speak the language and was familiar with their customs.

The second visit to Pakistan was February 2020 to begin that process. While there, the entire world shut down due to the pandemic and the Dass’ were detained in Pakistan and unable to return. Again, the Spirit’s divine intervention was at work. It seemed like it would be an idle wasted effort since all foreign travel halted. Jay and Julie were painfully aware of the hardships of the poverty stricken among them and during the pandemic the rationing of food was hardest hit on the Pakistani Christian population. With the help of the local church in the United States, Julie organized and prepared bags of rice and other household items to help the daily wage families in need. These small acts of mercy led to Bible study and Catechism classes with the children. Starting with four children in July grew to twenty-nine children and their parents by the end of the year. The LCMS church plant had begun (by an LCMS Vicar no less) and was officially named, the Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan. The people were eager to hear more, to learn deeper and to receive the gifts of the Sacraments, but the Dass’ needed to return to the United States for Jay’s final two semesters of education and his ordination. Therefore, they returned and prepared for their final visit to Pakistan which they call their “serve and stay” visit.



By May 2021, the formation of the LCCP Mission Board began and Jay and Julie traveled throughout the Midwest and Southeast visiting churches and attending the LWML National Convention in Kentucky. A budget was made, fundraising began, communications and a new website were designed, and all legal formalities were underway. In August, Pastor Jay was officially ordained in Transylvania, Romania by the Eurasia Mission. The return to Pakistan was imminent. The children and families left behind were awaiting his return. The seminary students were struggling without their mentor and little did they know but God’s greater plan in Islamabad was about to become abundantly clear. In September, the Dass’ closed their home in Naples and purchased a one-way ticket to the capitol city. The journey has not been without its bumps and bruises. They often have gone without a meal or heat, been concerned with political uprisings, suffered illness and have periodically shut down because Islamic holidays take precedence. Yet, the mission presses on. The seed planted so many years ago by one invitation has led to numerous thanksgivings.

With their own eyes and their own stories, Pastor Dass and his devoted helpmate are faithfully serving the Lord and His people in this Islamic region. The field is ripe, and the harvest has already shown a great yield. We invite you to join us on this journey as you read among the pages of this booklet. Partner with us in mission to further the Gospel in Pakistan.





**213 Million**

Population in Pakistan

**1.3% Minority Christian**

Nearly 3 Million

**It's Time to Put a Foot**

In Pakistan

# Why? Put a Foot in Pakistan

## 213 Million

From the 2017 Census the population of Pakistan was just over 213 million people. From that census, Christianity was the second largest minority at 1.6%. That is a 3 million minority.

Only 10% of Christians are financially able to secure a good education and middle standard paying jobs. Most are poor, persecuted, and denied basic necessities.



## Literacy

The overall literacy rate in Pakistan is less than 59% and even lower in rural areas. Christian education declined after the partition and many schools and churches were purchased by Muslims and are standing vacant.

The lack of education confuses the Pakistani Christians and they have no clear understanding of God's Word and the gifts of the Holy Sacraments.

The need for good education is apparent. By improving literacy, the Gospel can spread, homes can be stronger and rural communities can thrive.

## Christian Education

The Pakistan Government is not opposed to Christian schools. In fact they would encourage the better education and they know the benefits and contribution Christian schools have on communities. The time is right to start a Lutheran Church and School!



## **EXPLODING GROWTH**

God has prepared a ripe mission field for His faithful servants.

From left to right; Deacon Hannan, Pastor Dass, and Deacon Samson

# The LCCP Mission

Empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament and in grateful response to God's grace, the mission of The Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan is to vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches and communities in Pakistan.

## GOSPEL

We preach the Word of God rightly as Law and Gospel to all people. We teach the whole Word of God from Genesis to Revelation and Luther's Small Catechism. We freely worship the Lord and administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

## EDUCATION

Currently, we hold online seminary education through Luther Seminary Riga, Latvia for nine faithful men as well as Pastoral colloquy education for twelve ordained pastors of various denominations. We offer music and liturgical training from dedicated volunteers in the United States. We conduct Catechism classes for youth and adults as well as Sunday school for younger children. Bible studies are available during the week for men and women. There is also a children's pen pal ministry, which helps to improve literacy.

## COMMUNITY

We currently worship at five locations on various days of the week. Weekly Youth Group and fellowship meals are hosted at the Mission House. Pastor Dass and our Deacons make home visits. We have daily interaction with our Muslim neighbors and have had many opportunities to pray and share the Gospel of Christ with them when asked. Wherever we go, whoever we meet, we pray that the Light of Christ will shine in the darkness of our mission field and that we are always prepared to give an answer for the hope that is in us.







# How to Help

## PRAY

Since arriving in Pakistan in 2021, we have witnessed the Holy Spirit's work among God's people. We have conducted several baptisms. We have one church meeting under a tent for worship no matter the elements. Children/youth are eager to hear God's Word. Women bring their Bibles (and babies) to study God's Word and dozens of ordained pastors desire to know more about Lutheran teachings. Pray for our faithful servants; pastor and deacons. The need is great to find suitable places for worship and teaching. **Stay in touch with us on Facebook: @Lutheran Confessional Church**

## GIVE

The growth is beyond anything we ever could have imagined. We began with a goal to plant one church in Islamabad, and now there is a need and desire for five churches including one in Lahore. Resources are scarce and shipping is costly. Altar necessities, Bibles, Catechisms, and children's education materials are needed. We ask that you prayerfully give to the mission as the Lord leads you. Whether it be online or by check, one time or pledged giving. We also invite you to come to Pakistan and serve with us. **Give online: [www.lccpmission.org](http://www.lccpmission.org)**

## JOIN

We would like to partner with you or your local church. You can be an ambassador for the mission. We can help you involve your congregation, Bible study or youth groups, LWML or Sunday School class by providing advertising, handout, pledge cards, and videos. We are also willing to conduct a live online presentation to your large or small group, right from Pakistan! **Become an LCCP Ambassador: [lccpmission.org/giving](http://lccpmission.org/giving)**

# LCCP Year in Review

## September 2021

- Arrive in Pakistan
- Secured housing; The Mission House
- Purchased vehicle

## October 2021

- Building of the altar (cross, furnishings, drapes)
- First visit from Rev. Dr. John Bombaro
- Intensive training at The Mission House
- First Youth Group meeting

## December 2021

### The word is spreading about this new Christian denomination “putting a foot in Pakistan”

- First public witness at local hotel; children sang for Muslim guests and were warmly welcomed by hotel management
  - Books begin to arrive; Catechisms and ESV Bibles
  - Scout land sites for possible future church/school
  - Invited to speak at Christian Pastor’s Conference
- What is this teaching on infant baptism?**
- Offered free air time on local Christian television station

## January 2022

### A new year brought new faces and places!

- First Deacon installed; Deacon Samson
- Began second worship service “Under the Tent”
- Began weekly Women’s Bible study
- Young musicians begin liturgical training via Zoom

### News of the Christmas singing has spread!

- Families begin flocking to LCCP eager for their children to learn more of God’s Word
- New website launched [lccpmission.org](http://lccpmission.org)





### February 2022

- Added Urdu speaking worship at The Mission House
- Home-based Catechism classes started in Karachi
- Children's Pen Pal ministry kicks off
- Valentine gifts arrive with over 200 socks
- Women learning more about their role in the church

### March 2022

- The churches are officially named;  
Grace Lutheran Church (formerly the Mission House)  
St. Mark Lutheran Church (Church under the Tent)

### April 2022

#### The January Pastor Conference ignited a Fire!

- Nine (now twelve) Ordained Pastors desire training and certification for the Pastoral Colloquy process
- Interviews begin for Class of 2024 college students to enroll at Luther Seminary, Riga, Latvia
- More books arrive!
- Holy Week & Easter Worship at full capacity

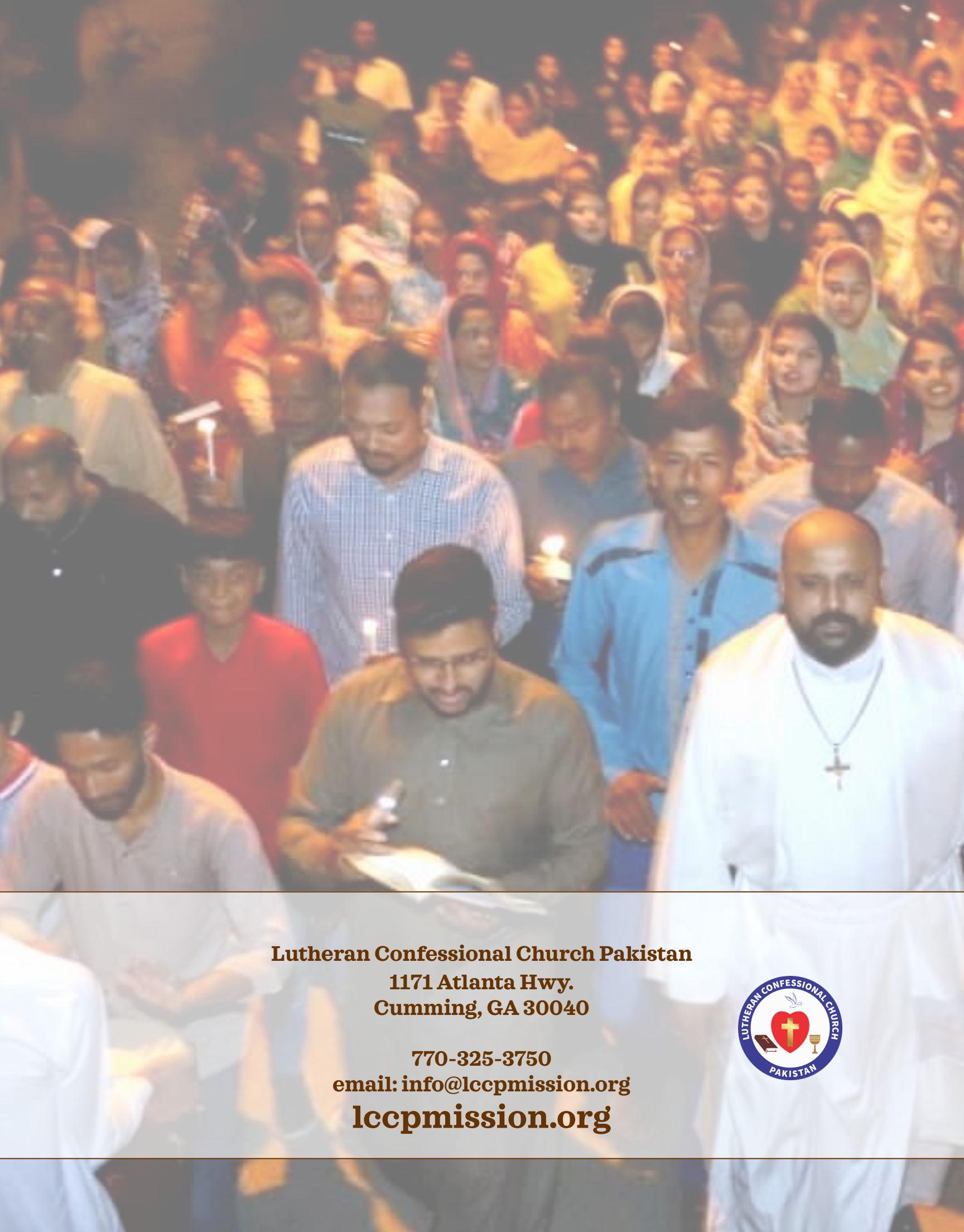
### May 2022

- Three more church plants in progress  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
St. Luke Lutheran Church  
St. Joseph's Lutheran Church (Lahore)
- Further support from LCMS Int'l Mission/Eurasia



**PRAISE BE TO GOD!**





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