



# LCCP MISSION NEWS

A monthly newsletter update from the Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan

## Things Are Heating Up in Pakistan

The weather is warming up so fast that we feel like winter turned into summer overnight and we skipped spring all together. Temperatures are rising in Pakistan, yet we still encountered 5 days of snow in Latvia. Because of limited flight schedules, we were forced to take a mini vacation in Istanbul. And although it was cold temperatures, the reprieve was much appreciated.

Our seminary students were not able to secure visas for the Latvia trip, therefore their classes continued online. Each of them face many challenges, whether it be their full time vocations, family needs, or the day to day obligations. Please continue to pray for each of them by name (found in past newsletters).

Julie and I still made the trip and it had proved to be a success. We met with several seminary professors at The Luther Academy to discuss the progress of LCCP students, their needs, and how we can better assist them as they near their vicarage portion of education. We returned to Islamabad the day before

Maundy Thursday and got very busy preparing for Holy Week services and Easter celebrations.

At this time, twelve ordained pastors are applying for the LCMS Pastoral Colloquy training. They currently shepherd congregations of 75 to 500 members. It is a great deal of work to add this training to their already busy schedules but they are committed to going through the process.

In end of May, Pastor John and Pastor Christian will be traveling to Pakistan for intensive studies for the Nine in the Line as well as meetings with the 12 colloquy applicants. They have also been invited to speak at a large convention and we pray the Word of God, as well as Lutheran doctrine of Word and Sacrament will change many hearts. We are grateful for the opportunities and favor God has bestowed on the mission. We also thank God for you and your continued support and prayers.

*In His Service,  
Pastor Jay Dass*

## Celebrating the Resurrection

Easter celebrations are serious business here in Pakistan. It is celebrated even more than Christmas and most Christians say "Happy Resurrection Day of Lord Jesus Christ" as a greeting. Most non-Christians here believe the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. They believe the recorded miracles of Christ. Yet, sadly they do not believe the truth of salvation by grace through faith. Easter is the best opportunity to share the whole story from birth to cross, cross to grave, grave to resurrection and to teach our brothers and sisters-in-Christ how best to share this message with others.

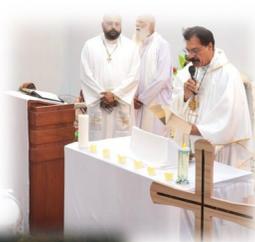
Grace and St. Mark Lutheran Churches were at full capacity on Maundy

Thursday and Good Friday. However, on Resurrection Day we were not able to handle the overflowing crowds. In the early hours on Sunday morning we began a 3-mile procession in a Muslim neighborhood of Islamabad. During Ramadan, Muslims are fasting and awake in the early hours and many were watching as it was the first time the cross of Christ led this procession on Easter. The crowd sang a passion story hymn.

Over 800 people, some elderly and some very young, worshiped the Lord and then gathered for a breakfast.

We had three services and a "Resurrection Egg Hunt" for 35 children. Their parents took interest in learning the Easter Story with Bible verses and illustrations that were provided in each egg. We distributed candies and children were asked questions if they knew the illustration meaning in the eggs. Parents appreciated the way the game played a role in their children's life.

It is our privilege to share the salvation story and our hope that many will come to know this free gift through the blood of Jesus.



## A Passion Hymn

One of the most popular hymns Pakistani Christians sing on Easter is "Sing Hallelujah". It tells the Passion Story. The hymn begins with the palm procession, then the Last Supper, to the passion narrative and the empty tomb and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This song was sung as the people marched through the streets with the LCCP Mission House cross held high!

It goes something like this:

*Sing together, sing Hallelujah  
as He is risen  
Celebrate the Eid\* with Hallelujah  
As Jesus is the Savior of the World!*



\*Eid Ul Fitr is a 3-day joyous festival celebrated by Muslims at the end of Ramadan. The above hymns words is a great reminder and witness that the greatest, most joyful festival is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Resurrection Eggs

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Messiah Lutheran Church's (Charlotte, NC) BASIC small group and Staci Welburn for taking the initiative to assemble, package and ship thirty-nine Resurrection Egg Kits for the children of LCCP churches. Their small group of nine adults and 10 children used a Thrivent Action Team to purchase all the supplies and had enough left for shipping too! During their monthly time together they read through the resurrection story and shared with their own families. They also prayed over all the children who would joyfully receive the kits.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan after Easter worship and breakfast, parents and children gathered for the Resurrection Egg Hunt. Together they read the resurrection story and opened one egg at a time to reveal a small object that illustrates a part of the passion story. Of course, the final egg was empty, just like the tomb on Easter morning!! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!

Sometimes this simple way of teaching not only helps children to understand but also educates parents on how to teach their children the Bible in a simple way. As was the case in Pakistan. Many parents were overjoyed that their children heard the Easter story in a simple and fun way.

Thank you again, Staci and BASIC small group for your thoughtfulness and the time you spent to make Easter special for so many families.



### PRAYERS & SUPPLICATIONS

*Please keep LCCP and all the mission work in your daily prayers.*

- ◇ Pray for Amjad's teenage son; fractured leg in a motor-bike accident
- ◇ Praise for two additional Deacons being installed in May
- ◇ Pray for Hanan; as he adds Deacon responsibilities to his education and meet the needs of his family
- ◇ Pray for the twelve pastors applying for Colloquy training
- ◇ Pray for St. Mark Lutheran Church (church under the tent) to secure a proper building for worship and future school

**Pastor Jay and Julie will be returning to the United States to see family and make church visits. If you would like a mission update by an in-person or Zoom visit, please email Pastor Jay no later than May 15th. We look forward to sharing God's mighty work with you and your congregation.**



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