



LCCP | MISSION NEWS

May-Aug. 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

A praise report is my favorite thing after a long summer trip and all the travel by road and air. Traveling from Naples, Florida, to Milwaukee in June for LWML Convention was the most exciting time for both Julie and I. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the LWML Ladies who are our partners in mission since 2016.

Yes you heard it right the big or small groups of LWML were supporting my seminary education and as soon as we started in Pakistan they amazed us with their love for missions and continued support.

Our next trip was by car from Naples to Georgia, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, and Milwaukee. Let's not forget the epic trip to Wapakoneta, Ohio, where we visited the Armstrong Museum with our host. Also, we got two tickets to do the "Ark Encounter," which is pending due to Julie's knee surgery and recovery. We flew to our visits in Michigan and Houston, TX.

We want to thank all who prayed for us and provided meals and financial support during Julie's knee surgery and recovery. The surgery went well, and Julie will report soon on her recovery.

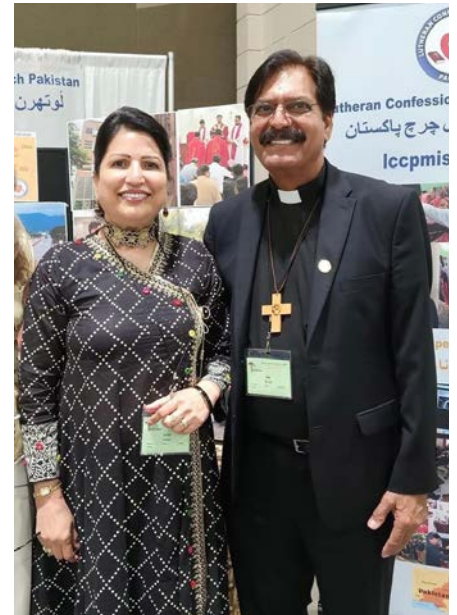
We have been requesting support for a school van, children's books and computers and other mission needs. We are halfway to our requested budget and want to take this opportunity to ask for your prayers and financial support in next few months as we are able to secure our curriculum with the help of our Christian Education Director and excited to share the progress in next few months.

Florida-Georgia District always proves to be the home district and met with largest part of our budget, but we are equally thankful for other LCMS districts.

We have 59 students in our catechism and liturgy class and 21 more registered to start by the end of the year. Also, our congregation is learning the liturgy and holding catechism and confessions classes.

We have four new students to join our seminary students list and become Lutheran pastors. We will update on names and their route in November 2023.

In Christ,
Pastor Jay Dass



SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Tim. 3:16

School is now in session at Concordia Lutheran School Islamabad, with 59 students currently enrolled in grades 1-5. We only have room at the school for 60 students at this time, with additional rooms needing furniture so we can add more students.

The basic subjects to be taught are: Urdu, English, Math, Science, Religion, and Music/Liturgy. Most of the workbooks have been purchased, including a religion class curriculum from CPH. Our new part-time keyboard player will record video lessons to be used during the Music/Liturgy class.

We are serving a small cold snack at 10:30 am and a hot lunch at 12:40 pm for children, since they come from very poor families where they sometimes cannot afford one hot meal a day and nutrition impacts the ability to learn. We are already working on Pakistan non-profit status and once we get this, Orphan Grain Train is already in contact to send us dry food items, which will be helpful.

Students' families are required to attend church in order to be enrolled. Initially this school project is launched to help our newly formed Lutheran congregation so we can focus on Lutheran theological education. Since most of them come from a Pentecostal background, it requires extra



effort to teach them about Word and Sacrament, beginning in childhood, to counteract this pervasive and destructive ideology in our member families headed largely by uneducated parents. The witness of the children bringing home lessons learned in their religion/Catechism/Liturgy classes has been shown to be highly effective. This approach of beginning with the children first has been the secret to our success from the beginning of our mission in Pakistan.

We have recently approved hiring two new teachers: Shamsah Emmanuel Masih and Ashwarya Rida Rameez are catechized and confirmed members of St Mark Lutheran Church. Both have been working in the church as volunteers since December 2022. Both are college educated and have experience as teachers.

It costs about \$150 per student, per month in our school. Please consider sponsoring a child or otherwise supporting our school ministry by donating at lccpmission.org. Several churches have already committed to supporting our children! We thank you for your ongoing prayers and financial support.



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH UPDATE

Right now more than 55 families are worshipping with us at different occasions and some only come for Bible Study or for a catechism class. 35 families are permanent members, and we will be adding 15-18 families before Christmas as they finish their Catechism class.

Since the start of St. Mark Lutheran Church in December we have 35 families as regular members of the St. Mark congregation. A few of them have been in service with us and learning catechism since December 2022 under the tent. As we grow in number our sanctuary is getting smaller by the day, especially in Advent and Lent we have to rent a tent to extend our worship space. We are requesting help with a building fund to put a permanent shade/structure to avoid sun and rain and cold weather in December to March. We pray for outdoor propane heaters and a weatherproof tent until we have funds to build a shade.

The St. Mark building has two armed security guards for 24-hour protection, as strongly recommended by local law enforcement.



FAMILY RESCUED FROM SLAVERY

St. Mark's Lutheran Church has hired a new janitor, Arif Masih, who previously had been held in bonded labor at a brick kiln for many years. He with his wife and five children lived in a camp kind of setting. At the birth of their fifth child, his wife Shazia fell really sick and was not able to continue with her labor at the brick kiln. The owner of the business who held a note for an unexplainable loan asked them to find someone who can pay their loan. Jay and Julie were able to pay off the family's loan and opened their home to the family.

The day after Jay and Julie brought them home, Shazia was taken to hospital as she was inexplicably losing weight. However, her blood work showed thyroid disorder. After getting the medical care needed, now she is a happy and healthy mother who takes care of her baby and children at the school.

All five children and both parents were baptized and are attending school with other children. Today, Arif is helping take care of the St. Mark Lutheran Church building, while Shazia helps with school children or any cooking and cleaning. Please pray for this beautiful family of God, our brothers and sisters in Christ!

LUTHERAN HYMNS TRANSLATION UPDATE

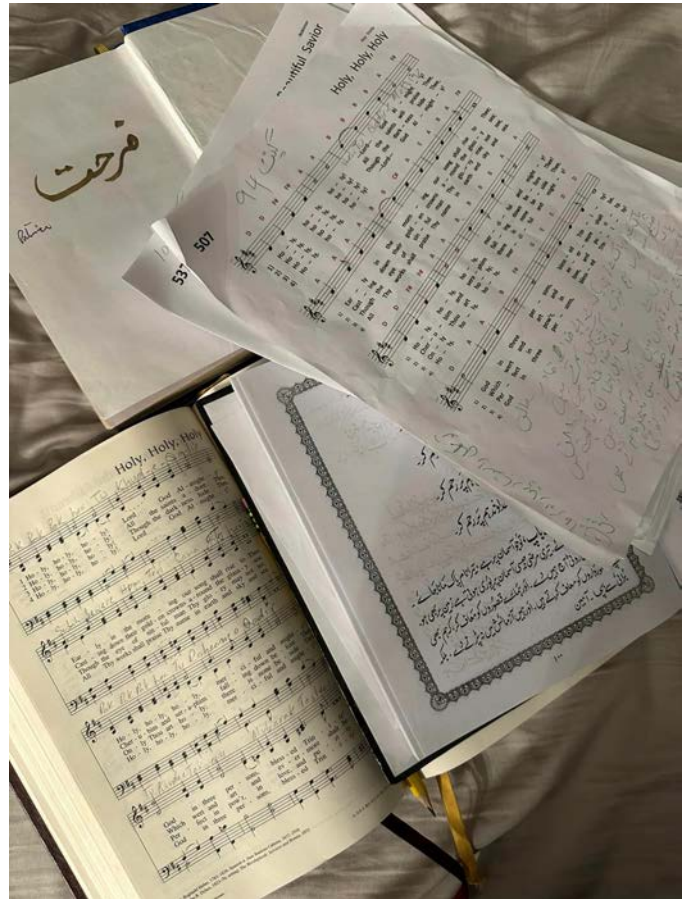
Our near-term goal is to produce an initial small hymnal in Urdu that will have Divine Service III, the Order of Matins, and 20 hymns. The hymn assortment will cover a broad range of seasonal or topical needs (like Christmas, Easter, Lord's Supper, Justification, etc.).

The format will have each page in Roman Urdu (left-to-right) facing a page with the same content in Urdu Script (right-to-left). This will allow the congregation to understand the connection of Urdu syllables to individual music notes (since European music notation isn't widely understood). Some in the congregation cannot read at all and will learn by ear. The importance of Lutheran liturgical worship in strengthening the faith of our Pakistani membership is hard to over-estimate, coming in stark contrast to the loud chaotic Pentecostal worship style that is common among much of the rest of the small Christian community.

Currently, we have Divine Service III and one hymn (O Come All Ye Faithful) completed in Roman Urdu (phonetic English characters), with much more in the works. As we establish our methods, the careful tedious process is picking up speed. Weekly practice sessions are being held for the clergy and a selected praise team, as our keyboard player accompanies with a single-note melody by playing labeled keys. This will also be taught to the children in our school, which turns out to be a wonderful witness to the parents as they sing at home.

The Pakistani Christian community has an old tradition of singing Psalms in the Punjabi language, but our Urdu project is really a trail-blazer for the 9th largest language population in the world. In addition, we are planning to proceed under the supervision of Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

What a joyful and rewarding process!



MISSION ROAD TRIP AND JULIE'S KNEE SURGERY

Jay and Julie had a very wonderful visit to the United States this summer, driving/flying many miles, visiting a number of Lutheran churches, and seeing countless friends. Everywhere they went they received a warm welcome and met many new supporters.

In addition to promoting the LCCP Mission, Julie was able to receive knee surgery in late August in Georgia. While it will take 4-6 weeks to recover, she is doing well and her doctors expect her to make a full recovery. There is a GoFundMe page set up to help pay for the considerable expense of the surgery. If you would like to donate, please visit: <https://gofund.me/437c6d2e>

Or scan the QR code below to view the GoFundMe page:



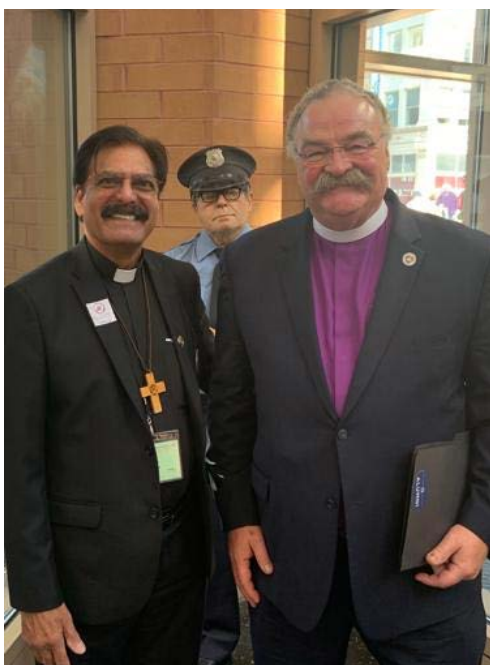
We want to thank all who hosted and supported them on their journey!



GUEST
SPEAKERS

Rev. Jay
& Julie Dass
missionaries in
Pakistan





NEW CHURCH VEHICLE NEEDED

Children in general and girls especially are a vulnerable part of Christian community in Pakistan, and there are many examples of abuse in public places. Some Christians prefer to keep their girls uneducated out of fear of being snatched or abducted. Women don't like to travel in the evening especially without a male being present for security. We are reaching out to three large slum areas and transportation for the security reason is our urgent need.

We have a Kia Carnival minivan to transport children every day back and forth from school to

the safe location in three neighborhoods in a radius around St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Women are also provided transportation on Thursday and Sunday after church services and meetings as well. Right now we are making multiple trips, which is not efficient for time and fuel usage. We are looking to buy a 26-seater van/bus (similar to a Toyota Coaster) for expanded transportation capacity. The estimated cost is \$40,000, and we have recently received a \$20,000 donation specifically for this purpose.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER REQUESTS

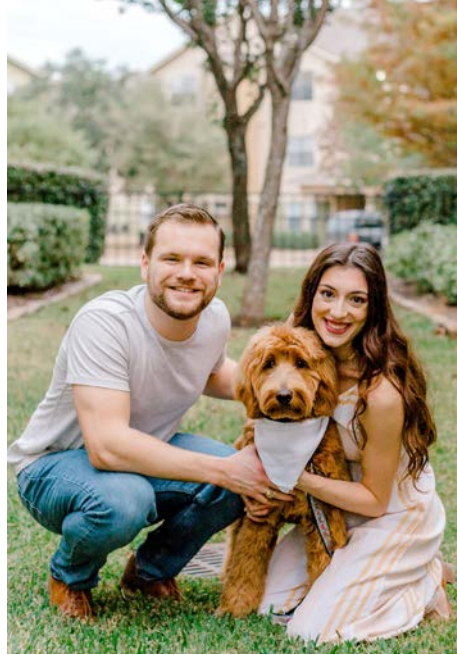
Please join us in praying:

- For Concordia Lutheran School Islamabad, which started its new school year and currently has 59 students. The school still needs ongoing funding for teachers, food, supplies, and classroom materials and equipment.
- For continued healing for Julie Dass, as she recovers from knee surgery.
- For safe return to Pakistan for Jay and Julie as they conclude their summer missionary trip to the U.S.
- For the translation of Lutheran hymns and liturgy into the common language of Urdu to help God's people worship in prayer and song using pure doctrine.
- For Concordia Lutheran Seminary, as we train faithful men to serve as LCMS pastors in Pakistan.



LCCP AMBASSADOR PROGRAM COMING SOON!

James and Rheagan Swanson have joined LCCPI to bolster our relationships with our donors and to launch and manage our LCCP Ambassador Program. They live in Houston, TX, and are members of Memorial Lutheran Church. Be on the lookout for upcoming email notifications from James and Rheagan as they get the LCCP Ambassador Program off the ground. If you'd like to get in touch with them and learn more about the program, send us a message at <https://www.lccpmission.org/contact>



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