



# LCCP | MISSION NEWS

Jan.-April 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

We praise God for all the blessings as we journey through a big project here, St. Mark Lutheran Church Islamabad-Pakistan. The building is provided by a Lutheran family, and we have finished its renovation as of January 1, 2023. The St. Mark congregation has put numerous hours along with skilled, paid labor and are very happy and thankful with their church building.

The school part of the building took a little longer and we opened pre-school classes started as of March 1. We have 11 students who never went to a school and didn't know how to read and write, and we are preparing them to start school year on August 15. They will continue with prep classes during this summer as most of them are residing with us at Mission/Seminary House or at St. Mark building residential part.

The most beautiful update about these children is that they are all baptized, and their parents are free from slavery – they are provided with residential facilities and are paid for their labor. Both men are the caretakers of St. Mark and Grace Lutheran Church Islamabad, and their wives serve with cooking and serving and are provided meals, medical and a minimal salary.

We are looking forward to our visit this summer between June 1 until September 1 and are available and willing to visit Lutheran churches to share this mission report and much more with LCMS friends and families. Please call Dave Koch at (502) 905-5624 or email [protondrk@protonmail.com](mailto:protondrk@protonmail.com) to schedule a mission presentation and LWML meetings.

## GIVING THANKS

We give thanks to God for the help from a Lutheran family in Florida who fund the rental for St. Mark Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Church Islamabad.

We have two buildings and two families are freed from bonded labor (like slavery) and worship in freedom and provided all their basic needs, seven baptized children are in the gift of this freedom in Christ.

We have a vehicle that carries 11-13 children that is donated by a generous Lutheran family from Florida.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for seminary students who are preparing to attend an intensive course at Riga Luther Academy in Latvia as they are finishing their B-Th and ready to be installed as vicars and serve the Lutheran Churches in Pakistan.

Please pray for the Concordia Lutheran School Islamabad, which is going to open its doors for 60-70 students this August and we still need

furniture, food arrangements as the students will have catechism and other Christian education at the end of the day and we serve food.

Pray for missionary travel this summer to USA and to Latvia for intensive study for Lutheran pastors in training.

# CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

## ALLELUIA!

*“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*  
**Romans 5:8**

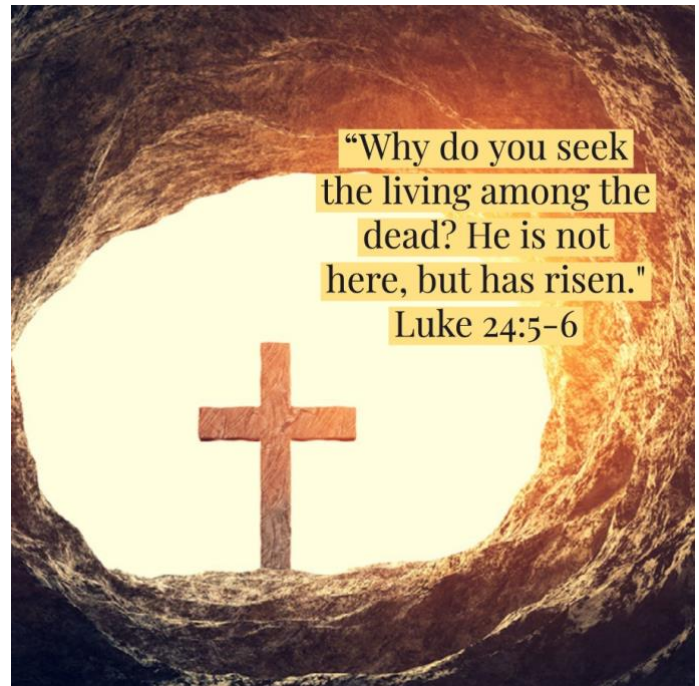
The Good News of our risen Savior Jesus Christ never gets old! We give thanks for God’s grace, which Jesus won for us through His perfect life, death on the cross, and resurrection from the grave. We preach Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins, which he freely gives to all who believe.

This year’s Holy Week, beginning with waving palm branches in the street on Palm Sunday and concluding with an Easter Sunday service with 350 people under a big tent, was yet another reminder of the saving gift we have in the Gospel. It wrapped up a Lenten season that began with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday and included a baptism on the first Sunday of Lent.

On Palm Sunday, we gathered in the courtyard of the sanctuary, sang hymns, and heard the Gospel reading until the procession continued inside the sanctuary. Maundy Thursday service included Holy Communion and feet washing. It was also a wonderful time of healing for some members of our congregation, as brothers who had not talked for over a year forgave one another and reconciled.

On Good Friday, people still have to work in Pakistan, but they still showed up for church that evening. In the sanctuary that can only hold 60 people, the church was full and the children had to sit on the floor to make room for everyone.

Easter Sunday was a very joyful and busy day. For sunrise service, we could not accommodate the whole congregation of believers, so the deacons arranged tents and floor rugs and many sat on an uneven floor of dirt and stones. We sang and shouted Alleluias, walking a mile around the neighborhood, proclaiming the resurrection of our Lord Jesus! In addition to sunrise service, we held two more services on Easter Sunday. The following pages show some of the photos from this wonderful season. Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!





SO THEY TOOK BRANCHES OF PALM TREES AND WENT OUT TO MEET HIM, CRYING OUT, "HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, EVEN THE KING OF ISRAEL!" JOHN 12:13





“AND HE TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS AND BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, **“THIS IS MY BODY GIVEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”** IN THE SAME WAY, AFTER THE SUPPER HE TOOK THE CUP, SAYING, **“THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD, WHICH IS Poured OUT FOR YOU.”** LUKE 22:19-20

HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS; HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; UPON HIM WAS THE CHASTISEMENT THAT BROUGHT US PEACE, AND WITH HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED. ISAIAH 53:5



# WE WERE BURIED

THEREFORE WITH HIM  
BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH,  
IN ORDER THAT,  
JUST AS CHRIST WAS  
RAISED FROM THE DEAD BY THE  
GLORY OF THE FATHER,  
WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN  
NEWNESS OF LIFE.  
**ROMANS 6:4**



# FROM ENGLISH TO URDU: TRANSLATING LUTHERAN LITURGY

*We consider liturgy in Urdu to be vitally important to orderly worship for new Pakistani Christians and to regularly imprint the faith on their hearts in a way that is faithful to confessional Lutheran theology.*

In Pakistan, both English and Urdu are the two official languages due to the country's British colonial history. In practicality, English is only somewhat known by the better educated and is not really the best vehicle for conveying deeper meaning to the average citizen. Even when using Urdu, literacy levels vary widely and there are actually five other major native languages that Pakistanis grow up speaking: Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Saraiki, and Balochi. Urdu is taught in the schools and represents the common thread for comprehensive communication.

Urdu script is written from right to left in the Abjad Nastaliq style, somewhat similar to Persian and Arabic. Interestingly, Urdu is also a minority language in northern India but there they tend to use a Sanskrit-based writing system. In Urdu script, the concept of syllables or even the use of hyphens is not widely recognized. A recent development has been the wide use of western cell phones in Pakistani society which has led to the practice of texting Urdu phonetically using Roman (English) characters.

## KALAM KI IBADAT

### YA DAKHILEY KA GEET/ZABOOR

*(Jab Dakhiley ka Geet/Zaboos gaya javey, Jalal Khuda Baap ka hai gaya ja sakta hey.)*

### GLORIA PATRI – Jalal Khuda Baap ka hai



Ja - la, Khu - da Baap ka hai aur Bee - tey ka aur Rooh ul Qu - dus ka;



Jay - sa ke ib - ta - da mein tha, ab hai aur ham - e - sha , tak ra - hey gaa. Ameen.

*In Pakistan there is virtually no recognition of the standard European music notation, and the concept of matching a syllable to a musical note or having consistent timing is rather foreign.*



Dave Koch works on the liturgy in online video chats.

This has led to a broad recognition of ‘Roman Urdu’ as a legitimate yet still somewhat informal way of depicting Urdu in a left-to-right written format. The spelling rules sometimes vary a bit since depicting certain Urdu word pronunciations in English phonetics can be a bit of a challenge.

Another challenge has been that in Pakistan there is virtually no recognition of the standard European music notation, which of course is written left-to-right. Keyboards are used somewhat, but without any formal training. Music is generally learned by ear, but the concept of matching a syllable to a musical note or having consistent timing is rather foreign. Chords at this stage are confusing. We have been able to purchase a good quality keyboard for the mission, but our team of deacons in Pakistan is adapting brilliantly in creating this groundbreaking material.

We have a three-pronged plan to produce usable printed liturgy in Pakistan, with an eye toward allowing American and European Lutherans to join in. We are getting some interest from the Embassy community in Islamabad, having recently spoken with someone from the Hungarian team. We are going to have three versions of individual LSB liturgies – English, Roman Urdu, and Urdu Script – beginning with Divine Service Setting III.



They will each show only the melody line of music that will have a letter label above each note to facilitate accompaniment. This is a time-consuming process in making sure that the true and accurate theological meaning is conveyed, that the music connection makes sense, and there is a nod to holy, respectful poetic phraseology. It requires regular sessions (“Music Mondays”) in which our team practices singing the new music and lyrics in order to make the adjustments needed. We are currently about 90% complete with the Roman Urdu version, after which we will work on the Urdu script version, using music software that will allow the music notation of the melody line to be shown in a right-to-left format.



*Even the children are learning to sing the liturgy!*

# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOL

## *Daily Christian education has begun in Pakistan for children!*

Thanks to generous donors and many volunteers, a five-story building has been repurposed for worship and is now housing classes for the underprivileged Pakistani children.

Currently, twenty-one children attend the school seven hours a day and are being fed in many ways. Physically, they are being nourished with a snack and hearty warm meal. They are being fed educationally, through the teaching of English reading and math. Most importantly they are being fed spiritually through the study of God's Word, the Small Catechism, and learning Lutheran hymns and liturgy.

These are gifted children who have never been given the chance to learn until now. They are excited for this opportunity and come eager each day to school. We look forward to filling the school to capacity of 70 students in Fall 2023.

Some specific prayer requests for the school are for funding for the following ministry goals:

- To be able to continue to provide meals for the children
- To be able to secure volunteers to sew uniforms for the children
- To secure a larger vehicle to help transport the children to school

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!





## WHAT'S COMING UP AT LCCP

**May  
28**

### ORDINATIONS ON PENTECOST

We are very excited for the ordinations of Deacons Hannan Paul and Naeem Jonah on Pentecost Sunday! They have received instruction from Riga Luther Academy as well as Pastors Jay Dass, Tim Droegemueller and Keith Lingsch since September 2020. Praise be to God!

### PASTOR JAY AND JULIE DASS IN THE U.S. THIS SUMMER

Pastor Jay and Julie will be in the United States for about three months this summer. Check the Facebook page for more information about their itinerary. If you are interested in having them visit your congregation, please send an email to Dave Koch at [protondrk@protonmail.com](mailto:protondrk@protonmail.com).

**June 3 -  
Aug. 31**

**June  
22-25**

### LWML CONVENTION

We look forward to seeing you at our booth at the 40th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) in Milwaukee, WI. Please stop by to connect with Jay and Julie and to hear about all the work the Lord is doing in Pakistan!

## SUPPORT OUR MISSION



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