



UPDATE FROM THE MISSION FIELD

In This Issue



Reformation Day



Special Guest Visits



Give Thanks

A Note from Pastor Dass

*"When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith."
Matthew 8:10*

Before we share the excellent news of the 21 baptisms that Bishop Jawed Dass and his teams performed, I would like to talk about the four private baptisms that were performed in an empty church (St. Mark under the Tent). Note: While we celebrate the 21 baptisms, it's important to highlight that this faithful Christian woman's faith is exemplary. Initially, we only planned for 21 baptisms and made a list in anticipation. The sermon was delivered, and the line for baptisms was lengthy, causing us to pause our service three times for a few minutes. I will provide a more detailed explanation in our following newsletter. We began at 5:00 PM and finished at 8:30 PM, after which the service ended, and dinner was served.

Both Pastor Hannan and I were at the back of the tent when, unexpectedly, an elder of the church rushed in while we were changing into our albs and preparing to leave. The elder informed us that a woman was sitting at the tent's entrance and requesting to be baptized along with her three children. In addition, the woman was insisting on speaking to Bishop Dass. Elder Babar advised her to return to St. Mark on Sunday, and we will baptize her children. However, she refused to leave and informed Elder Babar that this was her only chance to get baptized with her children.

Continued on Page 2



Continued from Page 1

Pastor Hannan and I decided to engage in a conversation with her to understand her story and the urgency behind her request. According to this woman, for the past few months, she has been attending St. Paul Lutheran Church (under the tent) with her in-laws and has been inspired by the sermons on infant baptism, firmly believing it is the right path. However, her father-in-law, who is the head of the household and a lifelong member of a "cultish church," is opposed to this decision. His belief stems from the teaching that references the thief on the cross, who, despite not being baptized, was granted entry into paradise alongside Jesus. Her faith in the face of such strong opposition is genuinely moving and deserves our support.



*Reformation Day 2024
The baptismal line was lengthy with
a total of 25 people baptized.*

I know you all are looking at each other while reading this story. There is a concerning rise of cult-like churches emerging in Pakistan, mainly due to illiteracy among congregations and insufficient training for pastors. To summarize, she convinced us that this was a rare opportunity for her to be alone, away from her in-laws, and to make decisions for her children and herself. We returned to the empty tent where the "Baptismal Font" awaited, and pastors and a few elders baptized her and her children.



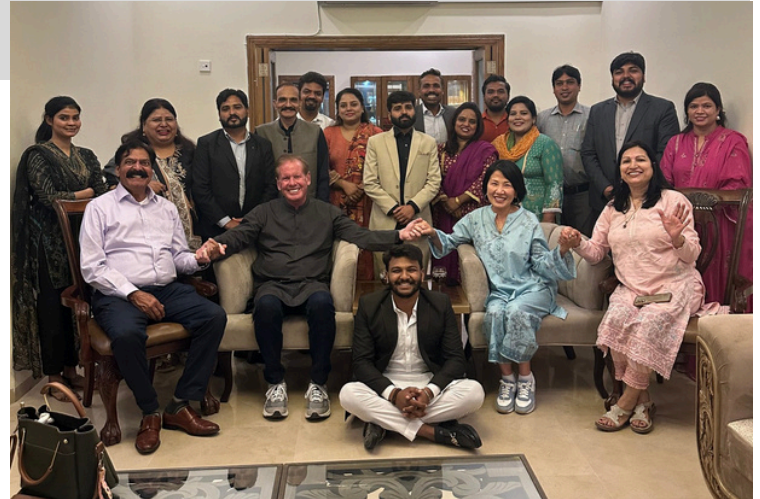
*She departed in peace,
and we went home singing
praises of "Glory be to Jesus"*

We will keep you updated on this family, and we have a few other women to maintain contact with her. We are dedicated to assisting her faith and her household in any way possible. Currently, she works as a daily laborer, taking on various odd jobs while facing challenges in financially supporting her family and making independent decisions.



We Thank All Our Partners in Mission

There are a few who take a leap of faith and come visit us, who touch the mission with their hands and their hearts are filled with joy. Earlier this month, supporters Mark and Juliana Ziemer visited us to see how the mission is doing and we thank them for their time, kindness, generosity and prayers. We worshiped and communed together. Thanks be to God.



The staff of St. Mark Lutheran Church and Concordia Lutheran School



Mark and Juliana did not spare a minute to show their love, especially to our 3 adopted families who are freed from slavery. The children and parents were around to hug and say goodbye. We are one family now and our guest left saying that they will be back.

Thank you, Mark and Juliana.

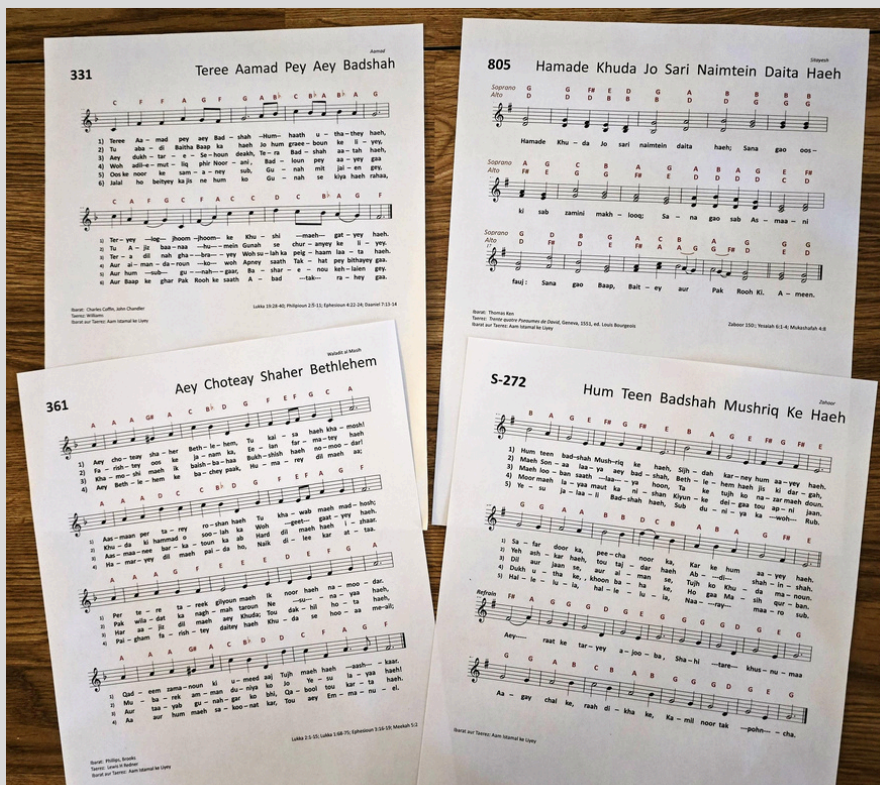
St. Mark Lutheran Church building in Islamabad, Pakistan is a 5 story rented commercial building. Mark and Juliana were given a tour of the whole building. The classrooms were decorated by the teachers and children. The art work was absolutely beautiful and the computer labs were properly equipped and functional (thank you partners). We thank God for all the blessings.



Praise God for all the blessings and for the biggest one; that we have the Love of Christ which binds us like brothers and sisters.

Music Update – Hymnal Translation

The focus for October was on the finishing touches of new hymns translated into Roman Urdu for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. This includes properly matching syllables with notes, adjusting the poetic wording for proper meaning, and practicing with the praise team to perform them. Work was also done on creating and introducing a Soprano/Alto version of the Doxology for both children and adults. Slowly but surely, the new hymnal is taking shape, and music skills are being expanded.



The hymns include 'The Advent of Our King', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', and 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.



Our recent guests, Mark and Juliana, gifted jackets and shoes to the school and congregation children. We requested a uniform color and they graciously met our request. These children will be warm in nice jackets and warm shoes and their hearts will be warm with the love of Christ, shown to them by our friends from Naples, FL.

All your gifts of love make a difference in the lives of these precious little children at St. Mark Lutheran Church and Concordia Lutheran School.

Reformation Day
St. Mark Lutheran Church



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD

This Thanksgiving month we remember and thank God for all that He has done for us here at St. Mark Lutheran Church Islambad, Pakistan. We thank Him for all the blessings; children, food, partners, workers and Pastors. We also thank all of you who pray for and support us.



We Give Thanks for Pastor Hannan. He is a wonderful young man who really works hard and is dedicated to serving children and families. You should see him around children; every child is taken care like his own. Thanks be to God.



From Pastor Dass

I thank God for all the support that He provided us through all of you who pray for and support LCCP. I am humbled to say that God has used me a weak and poor servant for a great mission. Baptizing in the name of our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, serving the Sacrament, teaching the little children, and confirming them in faith in Christ.



Catechism Class before Sunday Service

Colossians 4:3

Pray for us, too, that God may open a door to us for the Word (Gospel) to declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

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Liturgy practice at Mission/Seminary House

Liturgy and Music practice is fun but the challenge is to drop the children back home after dinner (from Mission/Seminary House). We gather once a month at Mission/Seminary house so the children can have fun and personal time with Julie, she is appreciated and loved by these little ones. It takes 2 teachers, 2 elders, myself and Pastor Hannan to make two trips to drop them back home safely.

Thank you for your prayers and support.