



Greetings Mission Friends,

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Here we are at Thanksgiving time (Erntedankfest) in Germany which overlaps this year with the 29th anniversary of Reunification Day celebrating the end of the division between West and East Germany (the Berlin Wall came down November 9, 1989). The experience of religious and political persecution under communism in former East Germany has made many German Christians open-minded and welcoming to refugees from Iran and Afghanistan who have experienced similar persecution. It is a wide-open mission field—although one with many false religious views competing to be heard. This is the field our Savior has placed us in, equipping us with His unfailing Word that continues to win souls for life with Him now and in heaven.



Karen wishing bride Jana Schmidt-Dahl well.
Attending our first German wedding.



Carl & Karen with Iranians at Lunch after
Taufunterricht (Baptism Instruction), Dresden



Pastor Azzam Family, Trinity Lutheran,
Oscoda, MI visit Cecils at St Petri



Carl and Iranians at
Bible Study, Dresden



Pfarrer Stefan Dittmer at Chemnitz with our altar paraments
from Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN



Abendmahl (Communion), Chemnitz with visiting
Pastor Roger Zieger, SELK Bleckmar Missions Director

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- Give thanks for a very special Iranian dish called Sabze (Delicious Iranian Herb Stew) that brings festive fellowship to the table here and friends that even prepare some as a gift to us! Heaven!
- Give thanks for the generosity of the German nation who allow us to live here & share true provision & freedom in Christ Jesus with them and our refugee friends.
- Give thanks for Bible study time and our refugee families who grow in faith, German language, directions of profession, moving and immigration legalities.
- Give thanks for our German brothers & sisters who reach out in love, sing the faith and serve their new friends who make St. Petri Dresden their home in God's Word & Sacrament.
- Give thanks for Chemnitz, an all refugee congregation who hold fast to God's promises and step up to leadership in serving their church.
- Give thanks for our extraordinary choir & organists who sound like professional angels if there were such a thing and their musical gifts of praise, beauty & artistry that connect the nations.
- Give thanks for our friends who share with us (with their generous financial gifts and prayers) on this life saving mission field of love, challenge, joy and trust in God by faith and not by sight.
- Give thanks for a friend who always says goodbye to us with Gottes Segne Dich...God Bless You! Thanks be to God for the eternal victory of the cross over the weight of our sin for gifts of grace, mercy, forgiveness and love. So, practice up on this familiar hymn and we wish you God's blessings with health and home this thanksgiving season.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Amin (Persian Amen)

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. 2 Cor 2:14 ESV

In Christ Our Eternal King,

Carl & Karen Cecil



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