

***Fröhliche Weihnachten,***

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Our Lord has come for our salvation! Christmas has been a great opportunity to share how Christ came to save us and leads us to serve in His name. ***Gott sei Dank!*** Thanks be to God!

In our weekly Bible study, we finished our year-long study of the book of ***Matthew***. Our trilingual (English, German and Farsi) Bible study was a great opportunity to read a chapter and then focus a specific lesson for the week. We found that navigating through three languages gave us some interesting challenges. Every week the refugees were led by the Holy Spirit to learn the faith that brings salvation in the next life and everlasting peace in this present age.

This past week we were able to share our faith more intimately as we had dinner at four different refugee wohnungs (apartment homes). We were able to find out more about the refugee lives and the oppression that drove them out. In Iran, the people live under a religious tyrannical regime and take risks that contribute to additional problems. In one instance, the man sent out a disparaging social media note to another man who had government influence. The other man identified our refugee as anti-Government and he had to flee quickly. Another refugee was discovered when he and several other men were writing anti-government graffiti supporting Kurdish rights. However, many of the people that we meet were secretly converted to Christianity and meeting in home churches. Many had to flee with no time for collecting their lives and setting everything in order. They fled and ultimately found a home in our church. ***Gott sei Dank!***

We have some good news that after four long years, one of our refugee leaders featured in an earlier newsletter, Ashkan, has been granted a positive asylum request. Once the refugee has received a positive finding, they are eligible for better housing, better work opportunities, better travel authorization and just a better life here in Germany. We pray that all our St Petri refugees receive asylum and therefore have protection from deportation. Our Pastor and church play an integral part in many of these refugees receiving asylum. Current German government policy does not send Christians back to Iran to certain imprisonment, torture and possibly death. Our hope has been and is now, that the Holy Spirit would work on the heart of these refugees that are not yet true believers. And He does. ***Gott sei Dank!***

***Gott segne euch!***



Carl & Ashkan,  
Chemnitz Refugee



Weekly Bibelstudium, St Petri

**Prayers:**

- For Refugee faith growth in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- For positive asylum findings for our Refugees.
- For thanksgiving for 298 Christmas cards from our USA supporters.
- For all LCMS Missionaries serving around the world.

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23 **ESV**

Blessed Christmas and Christ Filled New Year,

*Carl & Karen Cecil*



A new Persian Christmas tradition



Taufunterricht, St Petri



Cecils & Kourosh, St Petri  
Refugee Leader



Weihnachten Striezelmarkt, Dresden

Support LCMS work of Carl & Karen Cecil; send a tax-deductible gift to:

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