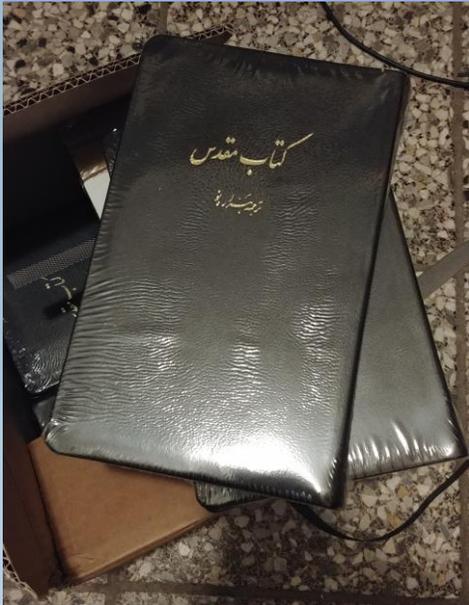




Farsi Bibles!



I want to give a shout-out to the LWML from one of my old congregations, Trinity Lutheran in Norfolk, VA, for funding the purchase of ten Farsi Bibles. When I was giving my presentation there, some of the members asked if there were any other ways they could support the mission. I had mentioned possibly buying Farsi Bibles, and since we ran out recently, I contacted them and they very generously funded the purchase of these most treasured resources. If you or a group from your congregation would like to support the mission in this way, send me an email (address below) and I will provide the information. Thank you!

Two baptisms in one day



On December 4th, an Iranian woman and her daughter were welcomed into God's family through Holy Baptism. I received permission from the mother to photograph the event, and they received the pictures afterward. Thanks be to God for this great gift!

Consecutive benefit concerts

On December 2 and 3, benefit/awareness concerts were held at St. Lukaskirche for the war and unrest in Ukraine and Iran, respectively. The singer at the Iran concert is one of the teachers for Kim and Pastor Hugo and has been extraordinarily valuable in her help with the Farsi translation of the prayers and sermons that are used in the services every week. We pray for a swift end to the hostilities and unrest in these countries and all around the world.



Thanksgiving for Persians

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, we had our own little American Thanksgiving in Chemnitz with a small group of Persians, mostly from Afghanistan. They were able to get a taste of what Thanksgiving is like for Americans, with turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, and pumpkin pie on the menu. Kim's brother Chris was visiting from the US, and he managed to smuggle the pie and the cream of mushroom soup (for the casserole) in his luggage on the flight to Europe 😊.

This section is where I'm going to add Farsi versions of Bible verses (and perhaps some sections of the liturgy), along with the phonetic pronunciation and the translation, so you can get a taste of what the Bible looks like to a Persian speaker.

Learn Farsi!

امروز در شهر داوود، نجات دهنده‌ای برای شما به دنیا آمد. او خداوند مسیح است.

The above verse is Luke 2:11, and it's pronounced this way: Emrooz dar shahreh Davood, nejât dehande'i barâyeh shomâ beh doniyâ âmad. Oo khodâvande masih ast. Translation: Today in the city of David, a savior is born for you. He is Christ the Lord.

Christmas markets in Germany

Christmas markets, or Weihnachtsmärkte as they're known in Germany, are very popular street markets held during Advent in various cities. Dresden's market is one of the oldest in Germany, with origins dating back to 1434, but Leipzig's is not far behind, having begun in 1458. I didn't make it to Dresden this year, but I was able to visit Chemnitz's, along with Wittenberg's and Leipzig's.



Some of the many ornaments available.



Pretty much every market has a very large Christmas pyramid on display.



Flammlachs, fire-roasted cuts of salmon, in the Finnish section of the market.



Most of the Christmas markets are held in the town square/city center.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

-my ESL student Simon, who is suffering from back pain

-The people of Iran and Ukraine, who continue to suffer due to war and unrest

-Continued progress with my languages and getting residency and bank account issues sorted

GIVE THANKS FOR:

-The Persian woman and her daughter who were baptized, and their new life in Christ!

PRAISE GOD FOR:

-The faithful attendees of the Persian services in both Leipzig and Chemnitz



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Mark Winterstein. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include Winterstein-Germany

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