



Parents and godparents with the newly baptized baby.

## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

We welcomed our newest member of the body of Christ last month—a new baby born to one of the refugee families. I am honored to be little “Aaron’s” godmother!

I spent the day before the baptism helping Aaron’s mother and grandmother prepare a special traditional Persian meal. It was fun learning more about their traditions and trying to communicate with the grandmother who only speaks Persian!

I am excited about being a part of Aaron’s life and walking with him as he learns more about his Savior and grows in faith!

On the next page, you can read more about how Aaron’s father has been a witness to others, inviting them into the body of Christ.

## Connect with me:

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Deaconess in Deutschland

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send me an email with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

## A Future and a Hope in Christ



Communing with refugees and Germans from the neighborhood who have joined our church.

As the days grow shorter, we are thankful for the light of Christ that continues to illuminate the seemingly hopeless situations of those we serve. Many who fled to Germany seeking refuge are currently facing court hearings to determine their status with the German government. Unfortunately, many are getting negative answers, leaving them subject to deportation. In most cases, they are unable to be deported because their home countries will not take them back or they have no passport. Refugees finding themselves in this situation are referred to as “geduldet,” which means “tolerated.” In other words, deportation has been temporarily suspended. Those who have been “geduldet” are not able to work or apply for unemployment benefits, although they do receive some aid for basic needs.

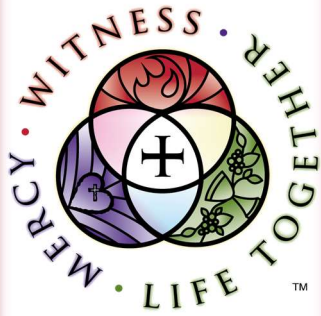
Some liken themselves to the fall leaves that have fallen from the trees—no longer able to return to the tree, but also with no future, as they are swept aside and cast off. ***Through Christ, they do have a hope and a future.*** Just as Jeremiah reminded the Israelites who had been exiled to Babylon:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)

As we share the light of Christ with refugees in Germany, we pray they find comfort in knowing the future they have through Him. We can’t promise them a German passport or even a residency card, but we can offer them the guarantee of an eternal residence with Christ in heaven.

# One Refugee's Story



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Refugees going through their court hearings, especially that those receiving negative decisions may not lose faith or hope.
- God to soften the hearts of the Germans in the Volkmarisdorf neighborhood to be open to God's grace and forgiveness in Christ.
- Language learning, as I recently began new classes at the University of Leipzig: Persian 2 and Arabic 1.

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- New Christians openly sharing their faith and inviting others!
- New refugees coming to church and beginning catechism classes.
- God showing His provision and care through each of you who faithfully support me with your prayers, encouragement and gifts!

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

- My new godson!



John discussing his case with his lawyer before his recent court hearing. He is still awaiting a decision.

Mark invited John to our church. At first, John was hesitant and reluctant to come since he was Muslim. Finally, he agreed to meet Mark there on a Sunday. During the service, Mark was praying for John.

Meanwhile, John was formulating his own silent prayer, "Jesus, I don't know you, but if you will help me, I will believe in you." John described an inexplicable feeling of peace during that first visit to our church. He has attended regularly ever since, with a strong desire to learn all he can about salvation in Jesus. He began catechism classes and was baptized on Pentecost. John comes to weekly Bible study and often stays late to ask more questions. He even continues to come to catechism classes to review and learn more. He is also a big help when I am teaching on my own and Persian translation is needed. I have been blessed to have many discussions with John as he grows in his faith. He still struggles with anxiety occasionally, but he says

***the peace and forgiveness he has found in Christ have completely changed his life.***

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.*  
*Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)*

- Deaconess Kim



To help Deaconess Kim continue to share the refuge we have in Christ with refugees, send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

OR

Mission Central  
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and include Bueltmann/Germany on the memo line.

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