



SALM

SOUTH ASIA LUTHERAN MISSION

News from SALM Director, Rev. Dr. Edward A. Naumann

Who are ‘partners’?

Our partners consist of any and all pastors and churches who request teaching and resources, to learn more about the biblical and apostolic faith from the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions.

With some overseas partners we are already in ‘altar and pulpit fellowship’, but SALM also works with non-Lutheran Christians who desire to receive Lutheran teaching and educational resources, so that they can learn and grow into unity.

The process of educating non-Lutheran Christians, with the goal of becoming united in fellowship, is called a ‘colloquy’, which means a conversation. Through this procedure, over time—though there is never a guarantee of the outcome—pastors and congregations can become united with us in fellowship, on the basis of a common confession of faith.

We therefore wholeheartedly subscribe to the saying:
“Lutheran missions produce Lutheran churches.”

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, please email Pastor Naumann at: SALMDirector@gmail.com.

Recasting Lutheran Rites & Liturgies

How do we practice our Christian faith? How do we baptize someone? It is easy for us to open our hymnal and follow the printed order of service, but our resources are mostly unavailable and unaffordable in South Asia.



A page from Lucas Lossius' *Psalmodia*, printed in 1553: one of the public domain texts we draw from, to form the liturgies for the new book

For these reasons we have begun the process of editing a new volume of Lutheran rites and liturgies, which will form the basis for the daily practical, liturgical and sacramental life of our partners in South Asia, and beyond. The new book will be instrumental in the training and formation of future pastors; it will provide a large part of the foundation for colloquy procedures; and ultimately provide the basis for the production of new hymnals, agendas and manuals for pastoral care.

Re-casting these liturgies is not easy work. We draw materials from older sources (not always in English), such as Lossius' *Psalmodia* from the 16th century, and the Common Service Book of the early 20th century. At the same time, we keep in mind the unique challenges of South Asia: the disparity of wealth and education; variety of climates, customs and languages, heavy influence of ecumenism, unionism, and syncretism, the prevalence of liberation theology and the ubiquity of non-Christian religions.

Rites and Liturgies must be clear in their purpose and meaning. They teach the faith; they preserve the truth and purity of the law and Gospel; they place Christians into the pattern of worship and praise that is shared with the entire Church in heaven and on earth. In short they guide Christians to the gates of Paradise. I am immensely grateful to the Rev. Dr. John Stephenson, and the Rev. Saulo Bledoff, who have agreed to collaborate in this work.

One of the most pressing and urgent needs is to receive education in rites and liturgies. Churches in South Asia do not have access to anything in modern English, which could freely and easily be copied, translated and used without restrictions of copyright. Lutheran rites and liturgies have never been prepared specifically for use in the South Asian context.

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Prayer Requests:

For all our overseas partners, that God would bless their efforts to educate the people in their care; and that their efforts will bear fruit, as they share the Gospel.

For peace and security for Christians especially in Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, that they may share their faith without fear or anxiety.

For all the new projects now underway, that God will grant time and strength to writers, and help bring to completion what has been started.

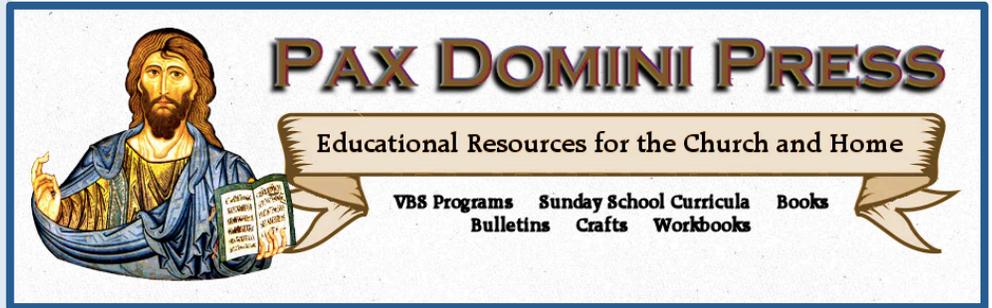
For the works already completed, that God would use them to bless and build up in knowledge and faith those who read and learn from them.

For wisdom and guidance for the SALM board, as they make decisions and oversee the work.

For Pastor Naumann and his family, as they continue to live and serve in Oakmont, PA.

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New Partnership for VBS Materials



In response to the request for VBS materials from many churches in India, SALM board members started searching for something suitable, and it was not long before Pax Domini Press came highly recommended as a possibility. Employing my usual bold and direct approach, I explained the situation to Pastor Peter Burfeind, founder of Pax Domini Press and author of the materials, and asked if he would be willing to let us use them. Understanding the great need, and the benefit these materials could bring to the people of India, Pastor Burfeind did not need much persuasion, and was delighted to agree to place a set of VBS materials into the public domain. After looking at a couple of options, we agreed on the set entitled “I AM”, based on Jesus’ words from the Gospel of John. SALM can now freely publish these materials in English and other South Asian languages, for free use in India and elsewhere in South Asia.

We are all very excited to see the Pax Domini VBS packet “I AM” made available as soon as possible. Once the materials have been reviewed again and edited for the South Asian context, the English materials will be published online and in print, and translation will begin into Indian languages. Thank you to Pax Domini Press for making this possible!

Welcome to the New Treasurer



When Richard Townes informed us in January that he would need to step down from being treasurer due to other time commitments, we weren’t sure where we would find another volunteer. Thankfully Pastor Bill Traphagan (pictured here with his beautiful family) happily accepted the invitation. Pastor Traphagan has training in accounting, and transitioned to the new role very smoothly in March.

A thousand thanks to Richard for all his hard work in helping to found SALM and for seeing us through the first year!

Pastor Edward Naumann

To support the work of SALM financially, send your gift to:

South Asia Lutheran Mission
782 15th Street
Oakmont, PA, 15139

For secure card payment, follow the directions on the SALM website:
southasialutheranmission.com/support