



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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News from Rev. Dr. Arthur, Deaconess Eva, and the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

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Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad." Psalm 126:3 ESV*

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! We hope this letter finds you well, rejoicing in the steadfast love of our Savior. As we continue the work the Lord has set before us here in Panama and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, we give thanks for you for partnering with us in the Gospel and for your support which makes this ministry possible.

In this season, we are daily reminded that God is the One who brings the growth. We plant, we water, we teach, we accompany, but it is Christ who builds His Church. What a joy to witness firsthand His faithfulness as He raises up laborers for His harvest among His people throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Truly, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad."

With great joy, we began a new academic year at the seminary with a new cohort of 54 deaconess students from ten countries. These faithful women are embarking on three years of rigorous theological formation as they prepare to serve their congregations in works of mercy, teaching, and service in Christ's name. What a blessing to see so many hearts eager to serve their neighbors with the comfort of the Gospel.

Here in Panama, six new women from three local congregations began their studies. They recently completed their first intensive course on Deaconess Identity, held at the end of September. Their desire to learn and their commitment to serve has been very encouraging to us.

The following week, we hosted the Panama FORO, a time of fellowship and partnership with mission supporters and leaders. During this gathering, we celebrated the graduation of two new deaconesses in Panama from the previous cohort. These women are now stepping into greater roles of service within their congregations, caring for the vulnerable and proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed.

Another moment of profound joy came from Spain, where the first seven women graduated as deaconesses in conjunction with their national church assembly. What a historic milestone for the church in Spain! Arthur had the privilege of being present to encourage, congratulate, and bless these pioneering servants of Christ. It was a moving reminder that the Lord is indeed building His Church in every corner of the world.



Panama



Colombia



Mexico

...and other areas in
Latin America and the
Caribbean.

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Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for the congregation we serve in Panama.
- ...for health and safety for our family and all who serve in Latin America.
- ...for the deaconesses who recently graduated in Panama and Spain, that they may find joy in their service.
- ...for the strengthening of our partners.
- ...thanks for the grace and eternal promises from the one who gives us all good things.
- ...thanks for the opportunities to serve His people in Latin America.
- ...thanks for all who make it possible for us to serve.

There are many opportunities to serve. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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Rickman Family Update

As a family, we enjoy serving together in God's mission. Our children continue to be our greatest helpers and encouragers in this work. Bethany has especially been using her artistic gifts to bless others by painting graduation cards and helping create special gifts for the new deaconesses. These small acts of love reflect the joy we share in serving together as a family in Christ's mission. Dear friends, none of this would be possible without you. Your prayers, encouragement, and sacrificial support allow the Gospel to be taught, mercy to be shown, and new servants to be formed across nations. We cannot thank you enough for partnering with us in this important work of raising up women and men to serve Christ's Church. We rejoice together in all that the Lord has done and all that He will do in the future.



***Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15***

We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! Please prayerfully consider supporting the ongoing work here with a monthly pledge or one-time gift. We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!

**In Christ <+><,
Arthur and Eva,
Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel, Mary Anna, Addy and Hannah**



To support the work of the Rickman Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

ALSO, you can send your gift to:
Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of the Rickman Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at www.lcms.org/rickman.