



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

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Panama



Colombia



Mexico

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

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:5 ESV*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we enter this holy season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we give thanks to God for you and for your faithful partnership in the Gospel. Advent reminds us that God keeps His promises. In Christ, God comes near, entering our world with mercy, forgiveness, and hope. Even amid challenges and busy preparations, we rejoice that the Lord is at work among His people here in Panama.

We recently marked the beginning of the new Church Year with a joyful celebration involving the children of the congregation. Together, they helped decorate the Christmas tree in the church and set up the Advent Wreath. It is a simple but meaningful way to teach them that Advent is a season of waiting, hope, and joy in Christ as we light the Advent candles each week.

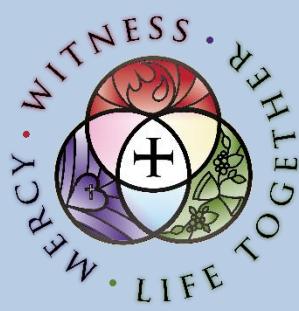
The following week, we celebrated Mother's Day (December 8th in Panama), giving thanks for the women God has placed in our families and congregation. It was a beautiful opportunity to honor their love, service, and faithfulness, and to rejoice together as the family of God.

Our congregation is now preparing for our Christmas concert and Christmas services. Rehearsals are underway and hearts are being prepared to hear once again the Good News of Christ's birth. We look forward to welcoming members and visitors to hear the Gospel proclaimed in Word and song.

We are thankful to share that the second deaconess class of the year began during the first week of December. The ladies are now studying the Catechism. Please keep these women in your prayers as they continue their formation to serve Christ's people with mercy and faithfulness.

This month also brought an unexpected challenge. There was a water-main break that resulted in a large hole in the church courtyard between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall as the city workers tried to assess the situation and make repairs. While this was certainly not planned, we are thankful for God's protection and for the patience as we wait for repairs to be completed. Even these interruptions remind us that the Church is not built on bricks and mortar, but on Christ Himself.





## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for the visitors to the congregation we serve in Panama who will be joining us for Christmas celebrations and activities.
- ...for health and safety for our family and all who serve in Latin America.
- ...for John and Melani preparing for their wedding in a few weeks and for God to strengthen all marriages.
- ...for restored health for Hermano Ulrich.
- ...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](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

**\*CAUTION: Please DO NOT FORWARD without permission or POST anywhere on the internet. Thank you!**

## Rickman Family Update

Our family is joyfully preparing for Christmas and looking forward to singing together in the Christmas concert. The children have been involved in making the season special for the congregation. Zoe made chocolate-dipped, piecrust Christmas tree cookies for everyone! Bethany made a special set of ornaments for the church Christmas tree and has been crafting nativity sets for the children of the congregation. Zoe is also preparing additional treats for everyone to enjoy following our Christmas Eve service.



As we celebrate Christmas, we want you to know how deeply thankful we are for each of you. May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes this Christmas.

**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, year-end 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](http://www.lcms.org/rickman).