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March  
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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,

*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. –Isaiah 55:10-11, ESV*

Over the past few months, this verse has been a great encouragement. Mission work often unfolds in small moments through conversations, acts of kindness, teaching a child, or encouraging someone who is discouraged. Yet through these seemingly simple things, the Lord is at work. We may not always see the fruit immediately, but God promises that His Word does not return empty. He continues to gather His people and strengthen faith through His Word and Sacraments.

February brought a special blessing to our congregation as we welcomed the members of our sister congregation, Castillo Fuerte, to worship with us while their church building was undergoing renovations. Sharing worship and fellowship together during this time strengthened the bond between our congregations and reminded us of the unity we have in Christ. What a joy it was to also celebrate with them in the rededication of their sanctuary at the conclusion of our FORO.

We were also thankful to see continued participation in the Sunday morning English classes that Eva teaches before worship. These classes continue to provide a wonderful opportunity not only for learning but also for building relationships and inviting new people into the life of the church.

During February we continued, and concluded, our summer school program for at-risk youth in partnership with the school across the street from the church. Working together with the school's director, teachers, a social worker, and volunteers from our congregation was truly a joint effort. It was a joy to see the growth in each of the children who participated. One especially encouraging story is that of a young man named Edward. Through the program he began attending church activities along with his mother and younger brother and sister. They have now started joining us regularly for English classes and Sunday worship, and we pray the Lord will continue to work faith in his family.

February concluded with VBS and an eyeglass clinic as FORO partners and supporting congregations both named Our Redeemer from Wichita Falls, TX and Iowa City sent mission teams and joined together with volunteers from our congregation to serve our community. It was a beautiful example of the wider Church working together to serve both body and soul. Our girls especially enjoyed helping Eva design the crafts that accompanied the theme: the Fruits of the Spirit. VBS concluded with a joyful Sunday worship service where the children sang in both Spanish and English.



Panama



Colombia

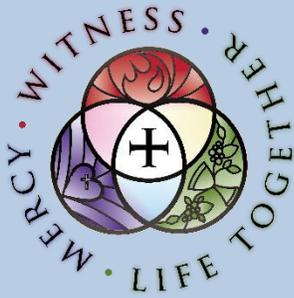


Mexico

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

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## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for recent visitors to the congregation we serve in Panama and for the youth we have been serving.
- ...for health and safety for our family and all who serve in Latin America.
- ...for Edward and his family, that the Holy Spirit will continue to work faith in their lives.
- ...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

This past weekend we had the great joy of hosting our FORO partners, who came to learn more about the mission work here in Panama. Together we worshiped, shared updates about the ministry, and celebrated an especially meaningful milestone with the rededication of Castillo Fuerte Lutheran Church in Los Andes.



We truly have so much to be thankful for. Your prayers, encouragement, and support allow us to continue this work of proclaiming Christ here in Panama. We thank God for each of you and for your partnership in the Gospel

*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](http://www.lcms.org/rickman).