THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod
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News from Rev. Dr. Arthur, Deaconess Eva, and the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

Webpage: www.lcms.org/rickman Email: Arthur.Rickman@lcms.org


Panama


Colombia


Mexico

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

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# Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

***... "we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV)***

One of the beautiful things we continue to see through the ministry here in Panama and throughout the world is that God does not call us to serve alone. He brings His people together and provides opportunities to serve. We recently had the blessing of welcoming a team of Parish Nurses to Panama. We enjoyed sharing with them about the work God is doing here and giving them an opportunity to see and hear first-hand as they visited two of our congregations.

Two of our deaconess students, a nurse and a special education teacher, were able to share their experiences and perspectives about health care and disabilities here in Panama. It was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to share and learn from one another. Before the nurses returned home, we were able to host a blood pressure clinic following worship on Sunday. It showed us another way we can continue to serve our community in both body and soul.

The same day the Parish Nurse team returned home, our FORO partners arrived. We were blessed to spend time together in fellowship and worship and to meet together to discuss the various ministry projects that our partners are supporting. These gatherings give us an opportunity to share progress since our last FORO, discuss needs and opportunities, and give thanks for the many ways God is working in and through His people here in Panama.

We are continually grateful for the congregations and individuals in the United States who pray for the work here, send teams, provide financial support, and encourage us in our service. What a privilege it is to work together as brothers and sisters in Christ! Our next Panama FORO is scheduled for the end of February. Please let us know if you are interested in learning more about the FORO and prayerfully consider joining us in February.

The weekend following the FORO, we gathered with our deaconess students for another intensive time of study. We taught the first half of the course on the Divine Service. It is always a joy to spend time with these ladies. We have the privilege of continuing to watch them learn and grow. As they study the Divine Service, they are learning more deeply how Christ comes to His people with His gifts through Word and Sacrament. This is at the heart of everything we teach. The deaconess does not serve because she has something of her own to offer, but because she has first received the gifts of Christ and is then equipped to share His mercy with others. Please continue to pray for these ladies as they study and serve.




## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- …for safety during recent earthquake and continued prayers for those affected.
- …for members and visitors of the congregation we serve in Panama.
- …for health and safety for our family and all who serve in Latin America.
- …for our confirmands as they study the Lutheran faith.
- …for pastoral and deaconess students.
- …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 and for our FORO partners.

There are many opportunities to serve. Check out the current list and download an application at *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



Many of you have heard about the 7.6 magnitude earthquake that struck Panama on October 9. We are very thankful to share that our family is safe. At the time of the earthquake, Eva and the children were here in Panama while Arthur was traveling in Colombia. We are deeply grateful for the many prayers and messages from friends, family, and supporters who checked on us. Your concern and care mean so much to us. Please also join us in giving thanks that all of our pastors, deaconesses and members are safe. While there has been some damage, thankfully it has been minimal in the communities where our congregations are located. Please continue to pray especially for those in the hardest-hit areas as some land routes remain blocked and heavy rains have created additional challenges with landslides.

***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*.