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December  
2018

News from the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

Webpage: [www.lcms.org/rickman](http://www.lcms.org/rickman) Email: [Arthur.Rickman@lcms.org](mailto:Arthur.Rickman@lcms.org)

## Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

—1 John 1:5 ESV—

As we continue to journey through Advent towards Christmas, please join us in continuing to pray for Christ's light to shine through the darkness. As we approach Christmas, it was a joy for our family to participate in the Christmas program along with members from the various congregations throughout Panama.



Panama



Colombia



Cuba



Mexico

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [arthur.rickman@lcms.org](mailto:arthur.rickman@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

We are also thankful to have a FORO working together to strengthen the work here in Panama. At the last gathering, it was decided that the greatest need is the repair of the roof in the parochial hall and the sanctuary at El Redentor (Our Redeemer) in Balboa. There is a strong desire for the congregation to reach out to the community with various mid-week activities as in years past, but the facility is in desperate need of repairs. During the 9-10 month rainy season, these buildings are inundated with water which causes them to deteriorate even further. Please pray these buildings can be repaired soon, so they can continue to be used for God's glory.



## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for health and safety for our family as we serve in Latin America.
- ...pray for our visas to be processed and granted quickly.
- ...for local leaders in la IELPA and for more leaders to be raised up.
- ...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."

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## Rickman Family Update

As we continue to get settled here in Panama, our focus for this past month has been working on getting all the necessary paperwork for our visas. It is quite a process and we have become regulars at the US Embassy. All that time was not wasted, though, as our five little children opened doors to many conversations with our fellow expats as we waited in line. God is constantly reminding us that we are to be His witnesses where ever we are. We pray those without a church home come to visit one of our churches. Please also pray, especially for our little ones who continue to deal with so much change and are waiting to find out if any of their special things from Hong Kong make it here to Panama in useable condition. As we continue to wait for our visas and our shipment from Hong Kong, we learned that many of our boxes were damaged by flooding from the super-typhoon that hit Hong Kong a few months ago. The few pictures we have received, show lots of mold and water damage. Pray for patience as it is so challenging to deal with the damage from afar.



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

We are so thankful for all your prayers and for partnering with us in sharing the most important message with those in Latin America! We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us! Please consider supporting God's work here in Latin America by supporting our family for another year with a monthly pledge or year-end gift. May God grant each of you a Blessed Christmas as you join with us in remembering the Babe in a manger and await His return!

In Christ <><,

*Arthur and Eva,*

*Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel and Mary Anna*

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).