

SERVING THE LORD IN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEWS FROM MISSIONARY COURTNEY ZALMANOFF



July 2019



My mom's side of the family, members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette



My family and I on my graduation day at Truman.

Greetings in the name of our Lord! It is such a pleasure to be sharing with you this first update as a new missionary with the LCMS. It has been quite a journey thus far.

For those of you who don't know me personally, I would like to share a bit about myself first. I am from St. Charles, Missouri, just outside of St. Louis, and I have resided there with my family my whole life. I have Lutheran relatives who settled in Missouri in the early 1800s and we've never left! I am a lifelong member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Olivette, Missouri and my family has roots there. This year is a joyous one for our congregation: we are celebrating our 175th birthday as a congregation, and our Chinese Mission church, Light of Christ, is celebrating its 20th birthday. I sure am Joyfully Lutheran today and every day!

I attended school at Truman State University from 2015-2019 and recently graduated with bachelor's degrees in Spanish and psychology. I pray this education will be beneficial as I travel to the mission field to live and work in the Dominican Republic! Spanish has always been my favorite subject since I began taking classes in 8th grade. In college, I realized I could combine my love of the Spanish language and cultures with my passion for serving God's people. And look where God is taking me now! What a blessing it is to be serving now as an LCMS missionary in Latin America!

In this new vocation, I will be serving as a GEO (Globally Engaged in Outreach) Missionary for a minimum of two years. I will be living and working mainly in Santiago, Dominican Republic (DR for short). I will be assisting Erin Mackenzie, the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Volunteer Coordinator. Our job is to organize all of the details and logistics for short term teams serving in LAC and to work alongside them once they arrive. Erin has been telling me some great stories about the work God is doing on the field through these awesome teams! She also tells me that missionaries wear many hats, so I am excited to discover what many tasks lay ahead as we work together on the field very soon.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service.

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Join my Facebook group where I share more frequent updates: Courtney in the DR



However, before I can pack my bags and head out to live in the DR for the next few years, there are quite a few things I need to accomplish first. I attended New Missionary Orientation the last week of May to begin my adventure with a team of ten other new missionaries who are heading all over the world. I then visited the world famous Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa to kick start my travels and support raising. I am currently in the network building phase of this process, which mainly consists of visiting pastors, families and congregations in order to tell them about the work God is doing through me! The LCMS uses a Network Supported Model to fund their missionaries which means you get to be involved as well! The Holy Spirit works through folks just like you to create connections and encourage contributors to be a part of the greater mission of the church. I am grateful you are already a part of my journey by reading my very first newsletter! Philippians 1:3 says it best: “I thank my God every time I remember you.”

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead of me. While it will not be without its challenges, I am confident that God has called me into this role and He is with me every step of the way. All glory goes to our Heavenly Father!

Each newsletter, I will include a Bible verse that has been on my heart lately. They will be written in Spanish so you can continue learning along with me!



The newest LAC missionaries with Regional Director, Rev. Ted Krey after the sending service at the International Center in St. Louis, MO.

Left to right: Rev. Ted Krey, Deaconess Intern Stephanie Wilde, Cindy Pine, Deaconess Intern Kate Phillips, Courtney Zalmanoff

Verse of the month!

“Por tanto, id, y haced discípulos a todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo; enseñándolos que guarden todas las cosas os he mandado; y he aquí yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo. Amén.”

San Mateo (Matthew) 28:19-20

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for 175 years of Immanuel and 20 years of Light of Christ!
- Thanks for a successful week of orientation.
- For myself and the other new missionaries as we step out of our comfort zones and into His service.
- For strength, peace, wisdom and patience as the other new missionaries and I go about our support raising.
- For God's guidance and faithfulness for the missionaries already in the field.
- For continued blessings during the Synod convention taking place later this month



To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift:

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