

missionaryMAC

News from Erin Mackenzie, serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic (DR) | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com

Changing seasons are far more subtle in the tropics than the Midwest. I'm beginning to notice darkness setting in earlier and the slightest hint of a chill in the evening air, but one thing is certain: mango season is behind us. I enjoyed them every which way during their peak. After trying out each of the recipes below, would you believe I STILL have some left in my freezer for smoothies?

1. [Mango and Cream Overnight Oats](#)
2. [Baked Mango Cheesecake](#)
3. [Mango Chicken Curry](#)
4. [Mango Sorbet](#)
5. [Mango Cobbler Cookies](#)



New Associate Regional Business Manager Cindy and I at a church workday.

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please send an email to erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

Sugar and Spice and Everything Necessary

Variety is the spice of the mission field. But it's more than a dash of cayenne or a chiffonade of basil; the Gospel goes forth through missionaries' diverse gifts.

I recently loaned my loaf pan to a friend who was making [gluten-free] banana bread; she'd added an extra banana and chocolate chips. Bewildered at her laxness about something so precise, I reflected on my own recent banana bread experience...and 1 Corinthians 12:4:

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

I'll never know how big a "medium" banana is, so my interest was piqued by an America's Test Kitchen recipe that involved microwaving the bananas and reducing their juices. My friend was equally bewildered at my technical precision.

Varieties of gifts. "Missions" often calls to mind pastors. There is no mission sans Word and sacrament, but there are also deaconesses. Teachers. Nurses. Photographers. The LAC regional team even hosted a dental hygienist. Everything else about missionaries is just as varied: education, musical ability, life stage, family dynamic. We're all identical, though, in that we share the same God. It's not about us. It's about Him, and His mission, and the Spirit with which He endowed each of us so that we might become participants in that mission. And it is the Spirit and the Spirit only that creates and nurtures faith—the faith I get to share day in and day out.

FYI, both recipes were worth repeating; I might even add chocolate chips next time!

*Adapted from my [latest web-exclusive article](#) for Lutheran Witness, which went live this month.





Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Paraguayan Alliance Missionary Rev. Walterson Siewert and family, serving in Peru.
2. Thanksgiving for the peaceful resolution of a tense political situation in Peru.
3. For me, as I assume the role of manager for the first time in my career.
4. For the health of the DR missionary team, as the country experiences a dengue fever epidemic.
5. For two seminary students as they return to their home country to obtain the necessary visas for continuing their studies.

Día de la Raza

Christmas may be the next holiday that merits the attention of retailers and marketers, but let’s not glance over the observance of the day Christopher Columbus and crew first laid eyes on the New World. In the US, it’s known as Columbus Day, but in the Dominican and elsewhere, it goes by Día de la Raza (Day of the Race). Rather than extolling the triumphs of European exploration, festivities honor the intermingling of ethnicities that lingers to this day as a result of Columbus’ arrival.

Schoolchildren are reminded of their indigenous Taíno heritage, often dressing up and acting out scenes from the island’s history. Concordia Lutheran School in Licey (pictured) sure got into the spirit!



Party time! *Left:* Estefaní (Good Shepherd Lutheran Homes group home) in her dinosaur party hat at a missionary kid birthday party; *Center:* If you buy pizza and donuts, they (new and veteran missionaries and seminary students from 5 countries) will come help you put together your IKEA furniture!; *Right:* “pigging out” at a *Charlotte’s Web*-themed dinner hosted by a homeschooled missionary kid who’d just finished reading it.

Quote of the Month!

“Do you know what a foreign accent is? It’s a sign of bravery.”

—Amy Chua, lawyer, academic, and writer

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

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **calling** a donor care representative: 1-888-843-5267; or
- by **sending a check** (with “Mackenzie/Latin America” on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.

