

THY STRONG WORD

NOVEMBER 2019

Mission Update

At the beginning of November, our Latin American Regional Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann, came to Puerto Rico for a few days for a visit. The main role of the regional chaplain is to spiritually support and encourage the missionaries on the field (they all need pastors, too!). He came to meet with the individual missionaries or missionary families and offer prayers, encouragement, or anything else he could do for us. He also preached at church on All Saints Day. We were happy to have him here, and we even had an all-team barbecue at our house during his stay.

Following the visit from Dr. Naumann, a short-term team from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Esko, Minnesota came for a week. They painted the church, taught English and music classes, and put on a Christian concert at a local housing project where we've been building relationships and hosting outreach events.

The day before the team left, November 15, we were finally able to purchase the building in Ponce that we were hoping to! We praise God



for His provision, and we thank all of you for your prayers! After months of searching, negotiations, meetings with lawyers, etc., we finally have a new worship space for Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life) Lutheran Church in Ponce. It's a bit of a fixer-upper to say the least, so the Neuendorfs and the church members have been working tirelessly to prepare it for a local inauguration this coming Sunday, December 1. It will be officially dedicated in March

when the FORO is here in Puerto Rico. Also, the good people of St. Matthew's were so eager to help with the new building that they stopped in Ponce on their way to the airport to help for a few hours before they left.

We celebrated Thanksgiving at church in Mayaguez on Sunday, November 17. We look forward to Advent when we will have midweek Advent devotions in church members' homes this year.



PASTOR JAMES NEUENDORF WITH FUENTE DE VIDA CHURCH MEMBERS STARTING WORK IN THE NEW CHURCH



TEAM SUPPER AT OUR HOUSE WHILE DR. NAUMANN WAS VISITING



MEMBERS OF THE ST. MATTHEW'S TEAM HELPING WITH ENGLISH CAMP IN PONCE. THEY ALSO HELD ONE IN MAYAGUEZ.

Personal update & Prayer Requests



We praise God that my side of the family was able to come to Puerto Rico and celebrate an early Thanksgiving with us. We took the opportunity to take a vacation with them, and we all went together to Luquillo, PR (the eastern part of the island about 3 hours from us). We stayed at an Airbnb together and enjoyed a visit to the beach, the rainforest, and El Morro in San Juan. We combined a Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration (no mailing packages at Christmas now!), and we all had a great time together. My parents and my brother, Joel, and his family all came.

At the beginning of October, the very day we were celebrating one year of living in Puerto Rico in fact, I found out that I am pregnant! We are due with baby number four on May 13, 2020. We are all excited and looking forward to meeting the newest little DiLiberto. Incidentally, my sister-in-law, Sara (married to Joel) is also expecting and is due on May 9. We will be giving Nana a couple of grandchildren for Mother's Day this year. :)

We thank you for your prayers during the pregnancy. So far everything is looking good, but the doctor's appointments are more difficult here because of how time-consuming they are. My first appointment, I had to wait 6.5 hours to see the doctor! Thankfully, since I live close to his office, the secretary is now willing to call me when he gets in so I can wait at home. Last time I only had to wait an hour at the office to see the doctor.

I also ask that you would pray for us to find another dependable and trustworthy babysitter. We had a great one, but she moved to the States for pharmacy school last August. It would really help with these long doctor appointments and so that Anthony and I could maybe go on a few dates before the new baby arrives.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you! One of the many things we are grateful for is you!

DONATION INFORMATION

Read our prayer card and give online at <https://www.lcms.org/diliberto>
A check can be made to the LCMS with "DiLiberto" in the memo line and sent to: LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166

Mission Central - Adopt Us as your missionaries by visiting

<https://missioncentral.us/diliberto/>
A check can be made out to Mission Central with "A10898-69173" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central, 40718 HWY E16, Mapleton, IA 51034

1. Thank God for our time with the Endorf family to celebrate the Holidays together.

2. Pray for the health of the baby and for wisdom for our doctor.

3. Pray for our upcoming Advent services as we try something new.

4. Praise God for our new worship/mercy center in Ponce!

5. Praise God for providing for us richly in every way, especially for our spiritual blessings in Christ!

PUERTO RICO FAST FACTS

Juan Ponce de Leon

Many of you may remember studying the famous Spanish explorer, Juan Ponce de Leon in grade school or high school. He is probably most famous in North America for his discovery of Florida and his search for the Fountain of Youth. However, before he discovered Florida, he served as governor of what is now the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. He was with Christopher Columbus on his 1493 journey when he landed in Puerto Rico, and in 1509, he became governor of the island. The city of Ponce is named after him, and his remains are buried in San Juan. (<https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/juan-ponce-de-leon>)



CONTACT US - NEW ADDRESS!

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[ANTHONY'S BLOG
NONORTHORSOUTH.COM](https://www.nonorthorsouth.com)

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God LSB 895, vs. 3

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven, The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore; For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.