



The star I built with my dad.

FUN FACT ABOUT PUERTO RICO

Christmas is Puerto Rico's biggest holiday. The season begins the day after Thanksgiving and lasts until about January 14th.

Christmas season includes Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and The Day of the Three Kings (January 6th). Each day holds its own transitions and celebrations.

(CultureGrams World Edition 2019)

Follow the Star

As we come upon the Christmas Season, I think of Christmas decorations and of the star I made with my dad when I was a young girl. The star is built out of wood which we attached colored lights to. Over the years it has gotten its use and we've had to repair it multiple times. The star has been put in front of my house, every year since making it, as a decoration for the holidays. On many occasions we have used the star as an indicator to find our house. When people come over, we always say, "Look for the house with the big star." So, they know they are at the right place. This star has been a symbol to identify my home. The star is also a wonderful reminder for the true reason for the season. The birth of a savior. "After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was." Matthew 2:9 (NIV). The magi followed the star that lead to the Savior, just like the star we built to lead me to my earthly home. I know that the star of Jesus will lead me to my heavenly home. We all celebrate the season differently, but the most important reason to celebrate is the birth of our savior. As I look at the decoration, I am reminded that Christmas is all about celebrating the birth of a baby boy, born in a manger.



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News for Puerto Rico

A short-term mission team from Esko, Minnesota came in November and hosted an English as a Second Language (ESL) Camp in Ponce

These pictures are from the missionaries in Puerto Rico and show similarities to what I will be doing with them. I will be assisting with the work of short-term teams and helping to teach and expand the current ESL program. As I am growing closer to my green light, my excitement also grows for what I am being sent to do!



The Picture above:

The Team from MN with the students that came to the camp

The Picture to the Left:

Coloring pages that have Bible Verses in English

The Picture to the Right:

Using game pieces to spell and learn words



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- For the Puerto Rico Missionary Team: The Neuendorf's, The Maita's, The DiLiberto's,) James Krey, Stephanie Wilde, and Myself
- Patience while learning Spanish
- Safe travels as we enter the winter season and while I visit and present at different Churches.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- For my gracious and generous supporters
- For the acquisition of a new church building in Ponce, Puerto Rico
- For the Congregations and groups, I have visited this month:
 - Saint John Lutheran Church- Berlin WI
 - Calvary Lutheran Church- Princeton WI
 - Faith Lutheran Church- Appleton WI
 - Saint Paul Lutheran Church- Fremont WI
 - Grace Lutheran Church- Fargo ND
 - Saint Andrews Lutheran Church- West Fargo ND
 - Zion Lutheran Church- Burnett WI
 - Immanuel Lutheran Church- Burnett WI
 - Grace Lutheran Church- Omro WI

Thank you!
Gracias!

" I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Thank you for joining me and staying updated with my newsletters. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support for your LCMS missionaries throughout the world make it possible for those individuals and families to keep their feet on the ground where they have been sent! I am especially thankful for your support in the work I will be doing in Puerto Rico. Thanks be to God! ¡Gracias a Dios!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Ashley Lehr

Join my Facebook where I share more frequent updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SendAshley/>



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](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

You can support my work by giving online to www.lcms.org/lehr or

A check can be made payable to the **LCMS** with **Ashley Lehr** in the memo to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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Mission Central

Adopt me as your missionary by visiting missioncentral.us/Lehr/

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