



Clouds over Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz in Mayagüez

FUN FACT ABOUT PUERTO RICO

The **hurricane season** is upon us! Although most hurricanes occur between August and October, the National Weather Service considers the hurricane season in Puerto Rico to run from June 1-November 30. May is one of the rainiest months of the year, and June also tends to bring a lot of rain.

(<https://welcome.topuertorico.org/reference/tempera.shtml>)

Here is the link if you would like to read the **PR FORO Newsletter** for May:
<https://mailchi.mp/df7e9706d3e7/puerto-rico-foro-may-2020-update?e=9acf754c8e>



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to Ashley.lehr@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

A New Focus

Happy June from the Dominican Republic (DR). I have some exhilarating news for you all. I have officially finished on-field orientation. If we were in non-pandemic times this completion would have meant deploying to Puerto Rico (PR). With the borders of the Dominican Republic still closed, this is not the case. My moto for this time is "I am safe here" instead of focusing on "I am stuck here." This change of phrasing to a positive statement has helped me focus on my time here and see the wonderful things God is doing through this period. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says that, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens." There will be a time when I will be in Puerto Rico but for now I know I am where I am supposed to be.

So, what does the completion of field-orientation mean in these unprecedented times? It means continued Spanish language classes with a slow integration, throughout the month of June, into the Puerto Rico mission work. With the help of technology, I have been able to do much of the work I was appointed to do for the Puerto Rico mission remotely. This includes teaching our virtual English classes, writing the Puerto Rico FORO newsletter, helping the team with our first virtual VBS, and helping order supplies for hurricane preparation.

My work with the English classes includes working alongside missionary Ruth Maita to write the lessons each week and help teach a group of students every Tuesday and Thursday via Zoom. These classes

are based mostly on conversations. We share a short bible story with the students and use themes from the story as vocabulary and discussion questions. The online English class has reached many new contacts and people outside of our church. Praise God for the growth and success of this ministry.

Each month I write our PR FORO newsletter; it has a similar layout to this one. This newsletter is sent to the Puerto Rico FORO partners. A FORO is a partnership circle between congregations, districts and individuals from North America and ministries in Latin America. This newsletter gives me a chance each month to learn and write about all the work and ministry activities happening in Puerto Rico.

A new ministry opportunity I have been involved in this month is the first virtual Vacation Bible School (VBS) the PR team is hosting. The virtual camp will be via the Zoom platform for 3 consecutive Tuesdays, each for one hour. Each Tuesday we will offer children the opportunity to learn about how God created the world. One example on how I have been helping with this is by signing children up through the church's Facebook messages. It has been a great utilization of the Spanish I have been learning! I ask for your prayers as we continue to work together on offering this unique VBS to share about who we are as God's new creation through Jesus' death and resurrection!



Our English Classes and VBS virtual Posters



Ringling in a New Year



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The new ministry opportunity especially our first virtual VBS.
- The Puerto Rico team as they look for an apartment for me.
- For all the fields in our region that are affected by hurricanes during this 2020 hurricane season.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The success of the English Partner Project with volunteers from the United States.
- One year of being a missionary
- For the safety and health of our missionary team

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- For you, my individual and congregational prayer supporters, and encouragers. Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support during this time. I praise God for your everyday.

BIM action ▶ Inbox ☆

F M
to me ← ...

Hello Ashley,

The board acted today and you have been appointed as missionary!



On Holy Trinity Sunday after a 3-month break from in-person services it was uplifting to be able to worship together with brothers and sisters in faith in God's house. Praise God for his blessings and strength. I pray you soon will be back together with your congregations as well! You are all in my prayers.

June marks one year since I was appointed and accepted my missionary position. It is often thought of a missionary's service beginning once the missionary arrives to the field, but it really starts once they accept the call or appointment and begin, their journey at orientation. My missionary service may look different from what I imagined it would when I signed the acceptance papers, but God is in control and the gospel is still being shared, in new and unique ways. Thank you for coming along on this journey with me throughout this last year and helping to make this ministry work happen. I am truly blessed by your support, encouragement, and prayers.



Top Left: The email I received when I became a Missionary

Top Right: Empty Church building with social distance

Bottom Left and Bottom Right: Church Selfies



Con el alma esperamos en el Señor, pues él es nuestra ayuda y nuestro escudo. (Salmo 33:20)

*-Your sister and Missionary in Christ,
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
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central

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

A check can be made out to **Mission Central** with "A10899-69467" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central 40718 HWY E16 Mapleton, IA 51034