



The Latin America missionary team has been coming together for a weekly check-in to keep each other informed as the situation in each country is changing so rapidly due to the pandemic. It is a joy to see and hear from my fellow missionaries each week!



The English Partners Conversation group! Pictured here are the volunteers in their first meeting learning about the Puerto Rico mission. Check out the article written on this project on the Office of International Mission website [here](#) (or at international.lcms.org).

A Global Mission

Greetings from hot and sunny Santiago, Dominican Republic! This month marks one year of my employment with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! It has been a year full of learning, personal and professional development, and furthering my cultural knowledge.

What a blessing it has been to continue expanding my work across the Latin America & Caribbean region, and even around the world. The LCMS works in so many places, and I have the privilege to work with many of her members on 5 continents. I am in regular contact with church workers and missionaries in nearly 20 countries! I continue to meet new Lutherans and Christians in all parts of the world, especially now that most of my work is done via the internet; I am grateful we are able to connect despite the distance that separates us. Philippians 3:20 reminds me that “our citizenship is in heaven” and that our vast, broken world is only a temporary home. Though I may never meet many of my Christian brothers and sisters in person, it is reassuring to know that we will one day be united in our heavenly home.

I have been working closely with the other Short-term coordinators to brainstorm and implement ideas for volunteers to interact with our international church body as our focus has shifted to online connection as opposed to in person connection. This has resulted in multiple online workshops, conversations, project brainstorming sessions, and physical resources that we continue to develop to keep our worldwide Church connected. Jesus says in Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.” Even though we are unable to welcome travelers to our fields of service, the work doesn’t stop! Where two or three gather in Jesus’ name, He is present and working in the hearts of believers and unbelievers alike.

One of these projects was the pilot round of the English Conversation Partners group. The idea was to



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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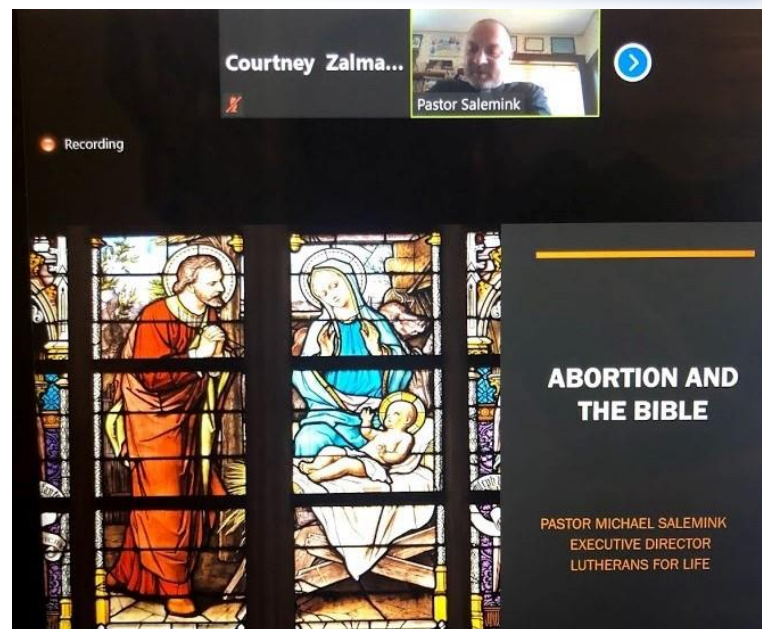
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Courtney in Latin America



pair volunteers from the United States with English language learners in Puerto Rico, Russia, and the Czech Republic who are already participating in English classes, without ever needing to leave their home. The program lasted 5 weeks, beginning with an introduction to the work in that region, followed by a four-week class of engaging discussion and practice speaking English. The response was resoundingly positive and full of excitement! English is one of the many ways to engage and encourage locals to *get* connected and *stay* connected to the church; this was especially fruitful in our Puerto Rican English class. We praise God for a successful first round of this type of project and pray that it may continue in the future! Thanks be to God for allowing us to use technology in these times of disconnect to bring people together and share the Gospel message.

In April and May, the LAC missionary community also had the opportunity to participate in an online workshop presented by the Mercy Center and Lutherans for Life entitled “Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated Voices for Life.” Presentations and discussions were led by Lutherans for Life Executive Director Rev. Michael Salemink and centered on the sanctity of life and how we can each be advocates for life. The hope is to bring this message of the God-given value of human life to our Lutheran brothers and sisters throughout Latin America in their heart language through various workshops and resources in the future. What a blessing it is to be reminded that each human life is special and that we are all created in the image of God himself (Genesis 1:27).

Thank you for your persistent prayers and encouragement as the world continues to change around us. Your support gives me and my team members strength to continue doing the work we were called to do. Blessings to you and your families!



Rev. Michael Salemink leading the Life workshop, offered to LAC missionaries in April and May. A range of topics were discussed including abortion, contraception, end of life care, disability, assisted suicide and more.

Verse of the month!

“Con mi gracia tienes más que suficiente, porque mi poder se perfecciona en la debilidad.”
2 Corintios (2 Corinthians) 12:9

Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for online connection with brothers and sisters around the world.
- Praise for a successful English Conversation Partners project and the beginning of new relationships.
- For missionaries around the world, navigating uncharted territory in their ministry.
- For the gift of life given to each of us.
- For those suffering from violence and unrest.
- Guidance and wisdom for pastors, governments and leaders as they make difficult decisions.

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