



## DECEMBER LEARNING

During the month December, I had the privilege of traveling to Wittenberg, Germany for the LCMS International Short Term Coordinators Conference. We spent our time learning new tools, sharing ideas, and brainstorming new ways to involve volunteers just like you! It was amazing to join this group for the first time in my role as volunteer coordinator. There are many tasks behind the scenes that my colleagues and I engage in to prepare for volunteers to serve with us on the field. Each member of our conference took a turn giving a presentation about a topic that pertains to coordinating volunteers and it was a wonderful learning experience.



**Missionary Steph Schulte is demonstrating how to use the tools in the first aid kit we received to have in case of emergency with volunteers.**



### **Volunteer Coordinators from around the World.**

In the back row from left to right Courtney Zalmanoff (Dominican Republic), Ben Helge (Czech Republic) Erin Mackenzie (Dominican Republic), Anne Gonzalez (St. Louis), Steph Schulte (West and Central Africa), Chelsea Irwin (Czech Republic). In the front: Erin Alter (St. Louis), and I (Puerto Rico).



**While in Germany, I was able to take some time to visit some historical Luther sites**

During our time in Germany and as part of the conference, we were able to visit the missionary team in Leipzig. We met with missionaries Kim Buelmann and Rachel Krause as well as their team member Pastor Hugo. What a joy it was to learn how God is working in Germany.



---

# STARTING THE NEW YEAR FRESH

I returned to Puerto Rico just before the New Year and was able to join my missionary family in celebrating the New Year and Three Kings Day. After the celebrations, I began preparing to host my first short term mission team.

The project planned for the team was to paint the Mercy center and church in Ponce. In preparation for the project, we purchased paint and rented a lift to allow us to reach the very top of the building. Arrangements had been made that my coworker Erin Mackenzie came to help with my first ever team. Everything was almost ready for the team's arrival and Erin had been picked up from the airport, when we received a phone call from the team leader with hesitation surrounding the trip due a variety of circumstances. We ended the call with the understanding that we'd both have total respect for whatever he & the team decided, and that he'd let us know later that evening their decision. Friday nights in Mayaguez are our bonfire nights with dinner, singing, and Bible study. The email arrived in the middle of a song of praise to the Lord our God that the team had made the decision to postpone their trip. Despite being disappointed that I still have yet to host a volunteer team from the States, I know that God's time is perfect and God willing the team will be in Puerto Rico in May.

Since the team was postponed and the lift was rented, our Puerto Rico mission team took a few days and painted the buildings together with a few church members. We missed the team but didn't let a slight change in plans stop us and we are starting the year with a fresh coat of paint.



## GOOD NEWS ON MY NOT BROKEN ANYMORE ANKLE!

After hobbling on cobblestone streets in Germany with a walking boot, I traveled to Wisconsin to celebrate Christmas with my family with the assumption that I was going to need surgery on my ankle based on previous x-rays. I made an appointment with a Doctor in Appleton to get a second opinion. Praise God that my assumptions were wrong, and I did not need surgery, meaning that after Christmas I was cleared to head back to Puerto Rico. I am now fully healed. Thank you for praying for me during my recovery.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *My first short term volunteer team that is coming in March.*
- *Our English classes, that we can continue with the classes in March and continue getting to know the students who have attended.*
- *Continued construction at CARD Ponce that we may be able open daily in March*
- *More opportunities to organize and equip local volunteers*
- *Prayers for church visitors: Angelica, Reyes, Maria, Emy, Jose and Sonia.*

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *A quick and smooth recovery of my broken ankle*
- *Safe travels to the Volunteer Coordinators conference in Germany*
- *A wonderful Christmas spent with my family in Wisconsin*
- *God's Perfect Timing*
- *Thanksgiving for the involvement of church members: Sandra leading crafts, Cindy cooking meals for church fellowship, and Jose, Eduardo and Idaliz helping with English.*

Join my Facebook Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SendAshley/>.

# LEARNING THROUGH OTHERS



During a couple of Wednesday fellowship nights, church member, Sandra Lopez, taught a couple of card making classes. These cards were used to give our English students encouragement and to let them know the church is praying for them. The cards read, "Thank you for coming to our church and participating in our English classes. Have courage, we are praying for you."

Sandra found our church through our online presence. She had belonged to a WELS congregation on the other side of the island and after moving to Mayaguez, was desiring to attend a Confessional Lutheran Church again. After catechism classes, she was confirmed on December 24, 2021. Praise God!

As part of my role as volunteer coordinate, I not only am I in charge of hosting and organizing volunteers from the States, but a major part of my pole is organizing and equipping Puerto Ricans to serve their neighbors. These card classes are one example of this aspect of my role as a missionary.



You can support my work by giving online to [www.lcms.org/lehr](http://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 6861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

## **Mission Central**

Adopt me as your missionary by visiting [missioncentral.us/Lehr/](http://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

888-THE LCMS • [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) • [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org) | 2

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](http://lcms.org/service).

