



TWO YEARS IN THE MAKING...IT FINALLY HAPPENED



At the beginning of March, I with the help of my Puerto Rico Mission team, hosted my first short term team of volunteers. This is a portion of my role as a missionary that had been put on hold due to the global pandemic. After faithfully waiting and working behind the scenes on teams, it finally happened! What a blessing to have a group of volunteers on the ground in PR.

The team consisted of 5 students and two faculty members from Concordia University Nebraska. They did construction and work projects at our church, Fuente de Vida, in Ponce. This included cleaning our parking area by removing weeds, trees, and garbage, painting the parking area with a beautiful geometric mural (shown above). They also painted many of the outside property walls and repaired a closet that the pastors use to hang their albas. During the evenings, the team helped with our English classes and participated in weekly ministry activities at both church locations.

What a blessing they were to our congregations, to our ministry activities, and to us missionaries. The Puerto Rico mission team has been working on the construction of our buildings for a long time. It has been a tiring process and this team with their energy, willingness to serve and their servant hearts brought a much-needed boost of morale. I am thankful this wonderful team was my first short term team.



On Ash Wednesday as a congregation we created and buried Alleluia butterflies explaining that we don't say Alleluia until Easter. On Easter we will dig out the butterflies we made and celebrate Jesus's resurrection



Fellow Missionary and friend, Erin Mackenzie, holding the *Himnario Luterano*, a hymnal 10+ years in the making that will unite Spanish-speaking Lutherans across three continents in worshipping our Lord.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- For the short-term team of volunteers coming to PR at the end of April.
- The continuation of our regular ministry activities
- Sonia, a friend of our church that is recovering from Surgery.
- Continued learning and growing in the word for frequent visitors in both of our congregations

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- That hosting my first short term team of volunteers was successful.
- The support of my mission team during my first short term team.
- For the return of our in-person FORO.
- For the arrival of the first copies of the Spanish hymnal.



Presenting at the FORO!

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

FIRST IN PERSON FORO SINCE MARCH 2020



During March we held an in person FORO for the first time in two years. The last in-person FORO was March of 2020 and I was still living in the Dominican Republic and was unable to attend, making this first time even more exciting for me. Not only did I get to participate in-person for the first time, but also had the privilege of coordinating and hosting it. We also offered a virtual portion for those who couldn't make it. We shared a week in the life of the Puerto Rico Mission with the FORO participants.

You may be wondering, what is a FORO? Well, a FORO is a partnership! In Spanish, FORO means forum, and it is a forum of districts, congregations, individuals, organizations, and more that come together to form a system of support for LCMS missions and sister churches in Latin America and the Caribbean to further the work of the Gospel. In the case of PR, some of our current FORO partners are the Minnesota North District and the Florida Georgia district, along with a variety of congregations across the United States, LCMS Disaster Response, and Lutheran Hour Ministries. These entities come together to help support the work of the Lord in Puerto Rico, through financial support, coming on short term mission teams, encouraging and supporting the missionaries, etc.

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

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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.

