

SERVING THE LORD IN
URUGUAY
NEWS FROM THE SHARP FAMILY



One of the many places we have looked at for the new site of the Downtown Montevideo Mission.

Looking for a suitable site for the downtown ministry center isn't easy. We want something with a good location in downtown Montevideo that is easy to get to via bus, with good visibility and a lot of both walking and car traffic, and it has to be big enough to have room to grow the mission as well as have the flexibility to host lots of different classes and events. And, oh yeah, it has to fit our budget. I have lost count of how many places we have looked at. We had one we thought worked for us (the location wasn't perfect but it worked) but then they raised the price on us after we expressed interest. Pray that we find something soon that will give us room to grow this ministry in downtown Montevideo, the heart of Uruguay.



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

Home Service Report



Left Angie gives an update on her teaching ministry to great supporters who came from all over the place to see us at Mission Central. **Right** Angie talks about her English outreach classes to a group at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. **Below** Our old van is waiting for us in Iowa when we come home and has plenty of room for everyone.. and has plenty of room for the kids to sleep comfortably while mom & dad drive all over the place.

It was great to be back in the USA for Home Service. We come back to the USA about every 2 to 3 years. Because of the school schedule of Angie and the kids, we have to do it during our summer vacation, which is only ten weeks and is during the winter in the USA. So ten weeks it is.

Angie and the kids had their last day of school on December 10th. We were already mostly packed, loaded up a van and headed to the airport. We left our house at about 8pm. A long flight to Panama, and a long layover in Panama, and a long flight to Denver, and a long layover in Denver, and then a mercifully short flight to Omaha and then a couple hour ride to Denison got us in at 2am..on December 12th. We were traveling about 33 hours. And we got right up and were at church at our home congregation, Zion in Denison, at 8am. One of my finest ever after-church naps took place that afternoon! It was important for us to get back as soon as we could since we have so few Sundays, we wanted to make sure that we could get one more in.

Ten weeks sounds like a lot and also isn't very much time. In the winter, we have to worry about weather and also, this time, we had to worry about Covid. Unfortunately, both of them got us—we lost a couple of engagements to snow

and ice and the whole family got Covid while we were in Ohio. While we were 900 miles from home was not the ideal time, but thankfully we were close to a close friend who has a big house and just got over Omicron. Thanks to Rebecca Jabs (our former colleague at Baltimore Lutheran and one of Ambrose's godmothers) for helping us ride it out.



While we missed some places we had planned to go, and while geography and time limit our ability to go everywhere and see everyone we would like to and thank and update all our supporters in person, our Home Service was a really blessed time of reconnecting with friends and supporters. We returned to Uruguay on February 22nd to begin a new school year and get back to our work in the congregations and missions of the Lutheran Church of Uruguay.



It's early Fall in Montevideo, where it gets cool at night and then is usually sunny and warm during the day. The girls got plenty of snow in the USA!

PLEASE PRAY FOR US:

- Give thanks for a successful Home Service and safe return travels back to Uruguay.
- Pray God's blessings on Angie's teaching ministry and the kids' school year.
- Pray for Roberto, whose time is short as his cancer spreads, that he would trust in Christ and receive eternal life.
- Pray for our "single Christians" whose non-Christian families are a source of friction and temptation.
- Ask God to bless our congregations and missions with renewed strength now that restrictions from Covid are being lifted.
- Pray for Aroldo, who has begun studying in the distance program of the seminary in the Dominican Republic, that he might grow in wisdom and understanding and use his gifts to spread the Gospel.



To support the LCMS through the work of James and Angie Sharp and family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

or
Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034



Elias caught up with some old friends while on choir tour.

BACK TO SCHOOL

March is our September, so getting back to Uruguay after Home Service meant getting back to school for Angie and the girls. Angie is once again teaching Algebra in English in the bilingual program at Colegio San Pablo. We have received such great feedback about her move into the math department and her students and colleagues appreciate her both as a native speaker and a great math teacher. Her expanded role also is a great way to develop relationships with students and parents and share her faith.

Callie is now in seventh grade in the *Liceo* (kind of junior and senior high

school put together). When students finish *Colegio* (elementary school) after sixth grade, the numbering starts over, so Callie is a first grader again!

Maggie is in sixth grade (in the *Colegio*) and will be confirmed in the Spring (probably in November or early December). We are proud of both our girls!

Ambrose finished eighth grade (2nd of *Liceo*) back in December before we went to the USA for Home Service. He is taking some classes online and will join Elias in August at St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri.

Elias is more than halfway through his sophomore year at SPLHS and we are very proud of him. He is especially excelling in music, playing piano and singing in the choir. While on choir tour, some old friends from our church in Baltimore were able to check out the SPLHS "Singing Saints" concert in Memphis and snap this picture with Elias. Thanks to Drs. Nick & Alex Wohlgemuth for taking time to reconnect with Elias, we know he really appreciated it. And thanks for sharing the picture!

We will back next month with news about our new mission to the east of Montevideo.

We know we would not be doing this important work without your help.

For your prayers, support, and encouragement, THANK YOU!

Yours in the True Light,

*James, Angie,
Elias, Ambrose, Callie, and Maggie
John 1:9*



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. Click on "Service Opportunities."