



## BLESSED BY A DISASTER AND EQUIPPING TO SERVE

This month we had the incredible blessing of being able to use some of our last remaining disaster response funds to make some major investments in our buildings and future capacity to respond to future storms.

These funds were in response to Hurricane Maria that hit Puerto Rico in September 2017. The storm destroyed homes and left a majority of the Island without water and electricity for months. The mission in Puerto Rico was blessed by Pastor Ross Johnson through LCMS Disaster Response and received funds to coordinate relief efforts. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane the funds were used to fix roofs that were damaged and provide relief bags to the community. As we have moved further away from the time of the hurricane, the funds have been used to repair and renovate our churches and Las Casa de Amparo (Our Mercy Centers) to better equip them to serve the community in the aftermath of a potential future disaster.

The renovations include remodeling kitchens, building ADA compliant ramps and access points, building walls, remodeling bathrooms and rooms that will serve as a community center. In addition to a host of other repairs and renovations, we were able to have solar power installed at both campuses. The system is working even better than our expectations, and a week-long power outage across the entire island also gave us a handy reminder of how important it will be in the event of another disaster.

In addition to the major construction projects, this month has involved organizing and taking inventory of our disaster response supplies and organizing our tools to prepare for hurricane season. Our hope is that by the end of June all major projects are complete, and everything is organized in the event of a future storm!

Even through hurricane season is right around the corner, we can enter into this time of national anxiety trusting in the promises that our Gracious God goes with us in the boat and He is our refugee and strength an ever-present help in time of trouble.

**Left:** Removing old kitchen **Right:** Beginnings of a fence for a children's play area.



**Building a wall in Ponce** to create a single entrance to the buildings



**Creating ramps** into the buildings.

**Taking inventory** of disaster response supplies.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- *The finishing of all of our projects.*
- *The missionaries that are traveling this summer, including me as I travel and volunteer at the LCMS Youth Gathering*
- *Continued learning and growing in the word for frequent visitors in both of our congregations*
- *The beginning of Hurricane season and bless the preparations being a made.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- *That hosting another short term team of volunteers was successful.*
- *For a healthy recovery from surgery for our friend Sonia.*
- *All the donors through LCMS Disaster Response who helped provide support and care.*



Some cards and letters I have received from you my faithful prayer partners.

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

# SHORT TERM TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS SPOTLIGHT

At the beginning of May I hosted another team of volunteers. A big thank you to the short-term team of volunteers from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wichita Falls, Texas! They remodeled the upstairs of CARD in Ponce by replacing a drop ceiling that had been damaged by the earthquakes and creating a storage room, along with many other projects around the properties both in Mayaguez and Ponce! What a blessing they are to our congregations here in Puerto Rico. Below are pictures from the work they did.



# MISSIONARY SUPPORT AND CARE SPOTLIGHT

A special thank you to the midweek students at my home church in Faith Lutheran Church in Appleton WI, for creating craft kits for our congregations here in Puerto Rico. The kids in the midweek classes created three different craft kits for us to use during our fellowship nights on Wednesdays in Mayaguez and Fridays in Ponce.



A very appreciative thank you to the individuals, congregations, and LWML groups that send me cards, letters of encouragement and little reminders that you are praying for me. I greatly appreciate receiving them.

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).



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 68681  
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  
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