

## J<sup>4</sup> November 2022 Newsletter – Clean Up, Clean Up, Everybody, Everywhere!

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

"Clean up, clean up. Everybody, everywhere. Clean up, clean up. Everybody do their share." Do you recognize this song? It's been playing through our heads a lot this month! From cleaning up after meals with visiting teams to cleaning up after Hurricane Lisa, it's been a wonderfully wild month.

On Reformation Sunday, October 30, we dedicated and celebrated Good Shepherd (El Buen Pastor) Lutheran Church. Led by all three of our pastors serving in Belize (Herb Burch, Benjamin Flores, and Micah Wildauer), the service was a beautiful reminder that all we have and all we are are gifts from our Victorious Lord! Forty disciples filled the church, with some making the 2.5-hour trip from our sister church in Seine Bight to join in the festivities.



Pastor Herb Burch, left, dedicates the new baptismal font.)



Reformation Sunday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.)



The new cornerstone at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was constructed by Eluterio Sanchez (pictured) and designed by Pastor Benjamin Flores.)

Three days later, Belize braced against Hurricane Lisa. The Category 1 hurricane hit roughly 10 miles south of Belize City with winds up to 85 mph. Slowly making its way through the middle of the country, it hit Camp Concordia Wednesday evening. The winds had decreased to 50 mph gusts, but it was still enough to knock down trees, branches, and coconuts, making for a noisy night. Somehow, Malachi, our 6-month-old son, slept through much of the storm. His parents did not. Thankfully, no loss of life or major injuries have been reported in Belize. Gracias a Dios!



*Jordan in front of one of the many piles of debris near Camp Concordia.*

After a day-and-a-half of cleanup, along with no electricity or running water, guests began arriving for the biannual Belize FORO. (What is a FORO? Learn more here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKLS9dTHqlM>) Not 10 minutes before the Welcome Dinner was to begin, the electricity and running water were restored to the camp! Gracias a Dios!

After hosting the Belize FORO group from November 4-7, we then hosted the annual Short-Term Teams Coordinators Conference from November 8-12. As you can imagine, it was a very busy week-and-a-half.

On November 21, we were finally able to visit the feeding program at Christ Lutheran in Seine Bight! It was so powerful to see 56 children fed through this wonderful ministry. A lovely woman named Miss Harriet leads the program, feeding these kids five days a week and running a tight ship. The kids help with setup, distributing meals, and clean up.



*Pastor Brunk, top right, leading the lunch prayer.*



*Jordan and Malachi, right, talking with kids during lunch.*

With a little more than two months under our belts in Belize, we've only scratched the surface learning about all the ways our Mighty Lord is working in all corners of this beautiful country. We're also getting settled into our missionary roles. Justin has been utilizing his writing and photography skills along with managing the Lutheran



Justin, far left, taking pictures during Good Shepherd Lutheran's dedication.



Jordan, right, and Sue Kessler are excited for ESL classes to begin soon in Valley of Peace!

Mission Belize Facebook page (Join us here: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Lutheran-Mission-Belize/100065010723736/>), while Jordan has been busy with financial projects and is developing curriculum for ESL classes.

Our Mighty Lord continually shows us things to be thankful for. We hope God gave you opportunity to similarly reflect during this Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

As we are all one body of Christ, we would love the opportunity to pray over your joys and sorrows. As always, please respond to our newsletter with any prayer requests you may have so we may take them to our Mighty Lord.

#### Specific Prayer Requests:

- Logistics for the upcoming ESL classes to coalesce
- Continued opportunities to share Christ's love with others
- Increasing comfort when conversing in Spanish
- Continued prayers for those dealing with the aftermath of the recent hurricanes and tropical storms
- Prayers of thanksgiving for all of YOU covering us in prayer

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We look forward to sharing how God will shine his light next month!

Vivit,  
J<sup>4</sup> - Jesus, Jordan, Justin & Jamie Malachi

Visit our website to find additional information, including how you can pray for us and how you can support us: <https://www.lcms.org/logston>



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