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News from Rev. Dr. Arthur, Deaconess Eva, and the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

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## Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable,  
always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that  
in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

-1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV-

So often on the mission field, as in other areas of life, it can be hard to see the progress day-to-day, but looking back over many days, weeks, and years, we can see how incredibly faithful God is, even in the midst of the messy world in which we live. The work we do each day, may seem insignificant--preaching one more sermon, teaching one more class, preparing another Bible Study, etc. Yet it is reassuring to know that God continues to work through our hands and speak through our voices, sending His Spirit to create, sustain, and grow faith. Though it is easy to become overwhelmed by everything still before us, it is encouraging to also look back and see the progress.

Even though the academic year officially ended in May, and Arthur was able to attend the annual symposium and graduation in the Dominican Republic, we are still finishing up a class on Law and Gospel with the ladies in Panama and Spain. It is a blessing to see the seven ladies who graduated last year continuing to faithfully serve their congregations now as commissioned deaconesses in the Lutheran Church of Panama. There are two additional ladies who are nearing completion of their first year of studies in Panama and six ladies in Spain. It is such a joy to accompany these ladies as they study Lutheran theology and learn to apply it in their various ministry settings.

Looking back over the past year, we can also see the tremendous restoration work completed at our congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Balboa. While there is still much to be done, the sanctuary roof is nearly completed and progress is continuing to be made replacing windows, updating electrical wiring, and painting. We are thankful to have a team of ladies who will be visiting in another week to work on various projects to help ready the upper floor of the parochial hall to house future teams.



Panama



Columbia



Mexico

...and other areas in  
Latin America and the  
Caribbean.

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## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for the church in Panama.
- ...for health and safety for our family as we serve in Latin America.
- ...for the deaconess students we are working with in Panama and Spain.
- ...for the strengthening of our partners.
- ...thanks for the grace and eternal promises from the one who gives us all good things.
- ...thanks for the opportunities to serve His people in Latin America.
- ...thanks for all who make it possible for us to serve.

There are many opportunities to serve. Check out the current list and download an application at [www.lcms.org/service](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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## Rickman Family Update

After being displaced for so long, we are looking forward to resuming worship in the sanctuary at Redeemer, Balboa. We give thanks, and in the fall we look forward to sharing the joy of this long-anticipated celebration with our FORO partners and other special guests from the LCMS who have



been instrumental in providing grants for the construction work. Our family has also been busy transitioning from one school year to the next. Panama follows a different school year from North America, so summer break for us isn't until Panama's summer/dry season (Dec-Feb). Please continue to keep our family and church in Panama in your prayers.

***Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!  
2 Corinthians 9:15***

**We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! Please prayerfully consider supporting the ongoing work with a monthly pledge. We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!**

**In Christ <+><,**

*Arthur and Eva,*

*Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel, Mary Anna, Heidi and Hannah*



To support the work of the Rickman Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

ALSO, you can send your gift to:

Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of the Rickman Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [www.lcms.org/rickman](http://www.lcms.org/rickman).