



NOVEMBER IN PUERTO RICO

SHORT TERM TEAM SPOTLIGHT

From November 11th to 18th, we hosted a short-term team of volunteers from Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest, NC. They worked hard all week building an outdoor kitchen and doing a few other little projects at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Mayaguez).

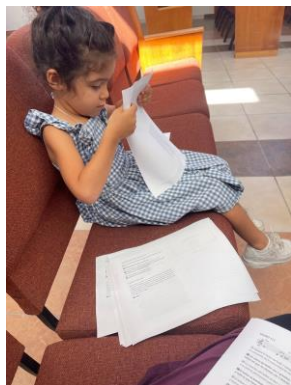
At the end of the week when the kitchen was finished, we celebrated with a meal, campfire, and hymn sing. A church member, Cindy, made a feast Friday evening. What a blessing that each evening a different church member made a meal for the team. We sang together from our Spanish hymnals and English hymnals, alternating one verse in Spanish and the next in English.

One of the team members from North Carolina said that he was blessed by the times to worship together because even though we are speaking in different languages we are brothers and sisters in Christ, members of the same Body.

The day after the team of volunteers left to return home, the men of the church gathered for a bible study and used the new outdoor kitchen for a meal. A few weeks later as we celebrated Thanksgiving together as church family, Carlos a member, made the turkey two ways in the outdoor kitchen. What a blessing it is to have this space. Our usual activities outdoors are Friday bonfires and the men's bible study time with a barbeque. These are easy opportunities to invite friends to come and enjoy some fellow. We are planning new ways to invite the community to our church and to use our outdoor space now more with the new outdoor kitchen.



Above: Before
Below: After



LITTLE HELPERS

Pastor Gustavo and Ruth Maita's four-year-old daughter has started helping me fold the bulletins for service on Sundays. It is encouraging to see her get so excited about what I believe is a mundane task. It is a blessing to be able to watch children grow up in the church and begin helping with Joy.



THANKSGIVING IN PUERTO RICO

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The Neuendorf family who return to Puerto Rico after home service in December.
- For the three students in Confirmation class with Pastor Gustavo
- Safe travels for my trip to Wisconsin in December.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The Short-Term team from Wake Forest, NC.
- For a safe and smooth unexpected trip I took at the beginning of the month.
- For the quick renewal of my passport.
- The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support me serving in Puerto Rico.

To celebrate Thanksgiving, we gathered together as a church family for a service and a meal at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Mayaguez) on Wednesday before thanksgiving. Carlos made the turkey and other church members brought sides and desserts to share. Cindy brought thanksgiving shaped butter cookies for the kids to decorate and enjoy.

After the meal it has become a tradition for the church family to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. It is a wonderful time of preparing together.



I celebrated Thanksgiving Day with Pastor Adam Lehman, his family, and with church members Andrew and Stacey from our congregation in San Juan. We had all the traditions foods and enjoyed a fest together.



For the third year in a row, I have joined the Lehman family in their Christmas tree decorating evening and it has become one of my favorite Puerto Rico Christmas traditions. I will forever cherish these memories.



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