

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC



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News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com | [erin.mackenzie5](https://www.facebook.com/erin.mackenzie5)

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

I'm *lucky* if I can stay awake, but here are **5 Traditional Dominican New Year's Eve Rituals** that *supposedly* signal good fortune if performed before the clock strikes midnight on 1/1:

1. Always toast with your right hand...while making eye contact (for added positive energy, jump three times on your right foot before clinking glasses).

For good luck in love...

2. Wear red underwear.
3. Crouch under a table.

For prosperity...

4. Eat 12 grapes—one for each month.

So the trip of your dreams becomes a reality...

5. Go outside with your luggage packed at *exactly* 12:00, after exchanging hugs with your fellow partygoers.

LAC Gift Guide

I'm a practical souvenir shopper, but aside from filling up my spoon rack (yes, I'm the only Millennial who collects spoons) as I travel, I'm slowly filling my home—and my belly—with noted products from the destinations I frequent for work. Want to make your *Navidad* a little more *feliz*? Look no further.



For the foodie...



For kids...



Dominican coffee, Jamaican coffee, Puerto Rican coffee, Panamanian coffee...

For the coffee drinker...

Making Disciples for Life



O Sing, All Ye Faithful



Photo © short-term individual volunteer Sarah Weber.

The DR's first—annual, I hope!—*festival de música navideña* debuted 10/3 at Iglesia Luterana Amigos de Cristo in Santo Domingo. The event resembled a service

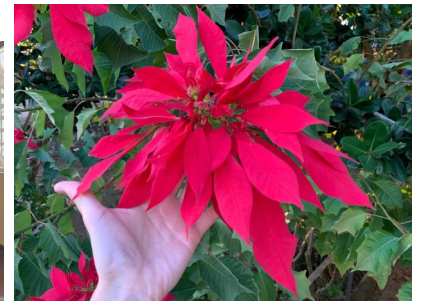
of Lessons & Carols, interspersing OT prophecies foretelling the birth of the Christ child and excerpts from the Nativity story with vocal and instrumental selections. In his welcome to those gathered, Rev. Lucas Elberhardt cited Psalm 150: “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!” We did our best: there were congregational hymns, choirs (seminarians [pictured]; members of Iglesia Luterana Pan de Vida), piano, guitars, flutes, recorders, and an accordion. Afterward, the church provided hot dogs and soda for all. One attendee commented to Rev. Ted Krey that she’d never realized the sacred music of the holidays originated with the *Church. Praise the Lord* indeed for such a festive way to meditate on the reason for the season. A reprise of the festival is scheduled for 10/10 in Santiago.

Clockwise from top: I’ve had a go, go, go past few months, but I do occasionally stop to smell the roses (er...hibiscus); Poinsettias are native to LAC (esp. Guatemala). This beaut was growing wild outside my church in February of this year; My part fell last but not least on the Peru FORO agenda: a discussion about opportunities for volunteer involvement.



Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the birth of Ian Joseph to Rev. Jeancarlos & Deac. Caitlin (Peru) and Matheo to Rev. Benjamin & Karina (Belize).
2. Thanksgiving for the faithful service of Rev. Phil & Deac. Rachel (Uruguay) who repatriated to the US last month.
3. For Rev. Obot Ite and the saints at Faith Lutheran Church in Kingston, Jamaica, as they deliberate a possible move.
4. For all who mourn the death of my great aunt Penneye on 11/2/23 at age 73.
5. For peace between Israel and Hamas.



Quote of the Month

“Once in our world a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”

—C.S. Lewis

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