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News & notes
from Rafael,
Jamielynn &
Elena
December 2023

Merry Christmas! ; Feliz Navidad!

*All my heart again rejoices As I hear Far and near
Sweetest angel voices, "Christ is born!" their choirs are singing
Till the air ev'rywhere Now with joy is ringing.*

*Softly from His lowly manger Jesus calls one and all,
"You are safe from danger. Children from the sins that grieve you
You are freed; all you need I will surely give you."*

*Come, then, banish all your sadness! One and all,
Great and small, Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever, There on high
In that joy, which will vanish never!
(LSB 360:1, 5, 6)*

Activity filled the church in Pueblo Nuevo during the Advent season. In addition to regular services, children's Saturday Bible school, and house visits, special Wednesday night services took place and a music concert focused on the Bible story of Jesus' birth. The Advent sermon themes were SIGNS – the signs that point to Jesus as Savior - "*this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger*" (Luke 2:12). We have the privilege of looking back in the Old Testament, to the signs given to God's people as they waited for salvation. Today, even as we celebrate His birth, we also wait for His second coming. ***Come, Lord Jesus.*** Pastor Rafael spent time this month caring for his members, mentoring his seminarians and preparing the house for our return home to the Dominican Republic. Elena and I are excited to be back together with our church family in Pueblo Nuevo soon.

Jamielynn and Elena have continued sharing the story of God's mission through visits and presentations. The theme verse for the presentations this year comes from Matthew 5:16 – "*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*" The presentations were a wonderful opportunity to share about the Light, Jesus Christ. As children of God through baptism, we have the light of Christ to share with others – through the spreading of the Gospel and the showing of mercy – our words and actions.

We are thrilled that we received Elena's passport back with her DR visa included. Rafael is with us again in Indiana and we are packing up. Our little family will fly home together on **Friday, January 5th**. Please keep us in your prayers during our travel and arrival to Santiago!

With love and thanks,

Pastor Rafael, Deaconess Jamielynn & Elena



(L) Little missionary Elena joined mama at all her presentations. Picture at Calvary Lutheran School, Indianapolis, IN. Elena is in her “Latin America” onesie!



(R) Divine Service in Pueblo Nuevo during Advent



(L) Deaconesses Mercedes and Rosi lead Saturday morning Bible school in Pueblo Nuevo.



(R) Christmas concert for Santiago hosted at Pueblo Nuevo. Pictured: Rebecca, Esther and Matthias Krey, Jesús Barcelo, Edwin Aguilar

Pray with us...

- 🙏 In thanksgiving for the birth of our Savior Jesus, born to save us from our sins
- 🙏 In thanksgiving for many opportunities in the month of December to share the good news of Jesus in Pueblo Nuevo and the US
- 🙏 In thanksgiving for supporters like you who continue to pray for, encourage, and support us in our work on the mission field
- 🙏 For safe travels as we head home to the DR as a family of 3
- 🙏 For peace and patience as we arrive and settle and look forward to all 2024 will bring
- 🙏 For the missionaries living and serving around the world

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rafael & Jamielynn. Make checks (MEMO: TINKEY) payable to:

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