



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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December
2023

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

Webpage: www.lcms.org/rickman Email: Arthur.Rickman@lcms.org

Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

James 5:7-8

As we journey through Advent, this season of preparation and waiting for the celebration of our Savior's birth, we can reflect on the long wait for the Messiah, even as we continue to wait for the second coming of our Lord. The seasons of waiting we experience in this life pale in comparison yet prepare our hearts none the less as we see God at work.

The harsh climate, decades without proper maintenance, storms and the pandemic all contributed to the inability of our congregation to use Redeemer's church facilities in Balboa. Over the past several years, it seemed like we were experiencing one challenge and setback after another. While there continues to be much work needed on the parsonage and parochial hall, thanks be to God, after much work, anticipation, and a final clean-up day this week, we will be able to resume services in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. What a blessed end to this Advent season as we once again can worship the Christ-child as a congregation at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Balboa. Please join us in giving thanks for God's divine mercy sent to us as the Babe in the manger and for the blessing we have, to worship Him in our newly restored sanctuary.



Panama



Colombia



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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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Rickman Family Update

Please also join us in giving thanks for restored peace in Panama and safety for our family after many weeks of protest. We had a front-row seat to many clashes between protestors and police. One especially challenging afternoon, we watched as four buses of police in riot gear and armed with tear gas, were unloaded right in front of our apartment as they clashed with protestors setting fires and blocking roads. We are so thankful for God's protection. Thank you for 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 here with a year-end gift. 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.

