



THE BEGINNING OF 2024 IN PUERTO RICO

CHILDREN’S ENGLISH CLUB

At Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz, Mayaguez, a new outreach started in January. On a Saturday morning Missionary Ruth Maita, started an English group for little children. In December, for Christmas, the Maita family visited the HeadStart preschool (who rents the first floor of our church) and invited all the families to join our new English group. We sang English songs like “Jesus loves me”, and “the itsy-bitsy spider”. We read the bible story of Daniel and Lion’s Den. We talked about how God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths, and we made a happy lion craft. We were joined by 2 new families with 2 children each. I helped by preparing the craft and snack for the activity.



PICNIC IN THE PARK OUTREACH

On January 27th, Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios, our congregation in the San Juan Metro area hosted an outreach event at the Isla de Cabras (like a state park). The day started off rainy, windy, and cold but turned into a beautiful day. We sang hymns, enjoyed a picnic lunch, and fellowship time together while telling others at the park about the Lutheran Church. It was worth waking up before the sunrise and driving across the Island to join these joyful Lutherans!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN PUERTO RICO.

At all the congregations on Wednesday nights we have activities. In Mayaguez and San Juan, we have a Bible study, eat food and sing hymns. In Ponce, we started a new Noche de Fogata (Bonfire Night) with food, hymn sing and games aimed at University Students. These are all wonderful opportunities to be in the word of God together as congregations.



Left: Mayaguez | Middle: San Juan | Right: Ponce

PERSONAL UPDATE.

Back in October of 2021, I broke the Fibula bone in my ankle. The bone healed but since then I have had a lingering pain in my ankle that would come and go when I did alot of walking. In January 2024, I went to see a doctor here in Mayaguez about the pain and had an MRI done. It was discovered, I had a tear in the tendon that connects the foot to the ankle. I have been receiving treatments and have been in a walking boot since the beginning of the year. I have my last treatment at the end of March. I thank God that my tendon is healing wonderfully, and I didn't need surgery.



Jan 2024 | Nov 2021



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The new English outreach to children
- The new outreach to University Students.
- Continued healing of my ankle.
- All the ministry that happen around the Island.
- For the Torres Family (Members of the Principe de Paz) moving to Florida in March.
- The friends of our churches who are in catechism class: Emmanuel and Mirangely (Mayaguez), and Igsi and Mama Igsi (Ponce),

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The Confirmation of Carlos.
- Jim and Cindy Nelson, and Julie Lang for their wonderful work on the Playground in Ponce.



CONFIRMATION SPOTLIGHT

On Sunday February 4th, Carlos confessed his faith through confirmation.

SHORT TERM TEAM SPOTLIGHT

For over two years our congregation in Ponce has been planning and praying for a playground to offer to the church community kids! Every Friday our church campus is filled with a group of 30 homeschool families. We are blessed with a lot of space in our church campus but didn't have any actual areas for kids to focus their play.



From February 6th to February 13th, Trinity Lutheran Church in Creston, IA sent a team to help us build a playground! A big thank you to Jim, Cindy, and Julie who spent the week with us to construct a great set up for the kids! With the help of Pastor James Neuendorf, they helped design it and bring it to life. It was a special blessing, as Jim & Cindy, are Mission Sender Supporters.



WORKSHOPS

We continue to host workshops at our Mercy Centers on topics that may be of interest and of help to the community. Crafts are of high interest with a lot of ladies in our area.

Two friends of the congregation in Ponce - who first came to know us through ESL classes over three years ago and are now in confirmation classes - led a Valentine Day card making workshop for us on February 10th. We always begin the workshop with a short devotion and prayer for our time together.



The beginning of the year also included a lot of administrative work, that is boring to read about because it involves long hours at government buildings. So here is a selfie Deaconess Christel and I took at the bank. We thank God for the new and continuing activities that are happening in Puerto Rico this year.

You can support my work by giving online to www.lcms.org/lehr or

Adopt me as your missionary by visiting missioncentral.us/Lehr/



A check can be made payable to the **LCMS** with **Ashley Lehr** in the memo to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
Mission Central

A check can be made out to **Mission Central** with "A10899-69467" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central 40718 HWY E16 Mapleton, IA 51034