

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

The Fritsche Family

Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod
Witness Always



San Mateo 17:1

Seis días después, Jesús tomó a Pedro, a Jacobo y a Juan su hermano, y los llevó aparte a un monte alto.

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.. (St. Matthew 17:1).



Fun Facts about the DR...

This is more of a funny than a fun fact. Recently a Dominican newspaper ran an article about President Trump, but mistakenly included a photo of actor Alec Baldwin impersonating Donald Trump in a Saturday Night Live skit. Oops! Regardless of any political leanings one way or the other, this seemed especially humorous to those of us who serve here in the DR.

Check out **LCMS Missions in Latin America and the Caribbean** for regional updates and **The Fritsche Family: A La Republica Dominica** for weekly updates on our family and our work in the Dominican Republic.

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Up the High Mountain

Six days after Peter's awesome confession of Jesus as the Christ, a confession that was followed by our Lord's announcement that He would suffer, die and rise and Peter's refusal to accept such a thing, six days after all of that, Jesus led Peter, James and John up a mountain and was transfigured before them. Moses and Elijah appeared, pillars of the Law and Prophets of the Old Testament, attesting to the identity of the same Christ that Peter had confessed. Then came the voice of the Father, "This is My Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him," again affirming Jesus as the Christ. Jesus took these disciples, his three closest, up the mountain, gave them a preview of His glory, preparing them for the humiliation of the cross that was soon to come upon Him.

Every first Friday of the month, Lutheran missionary pastors in the Dominican Republic ascend the mountain with their disciples (well, pre-seminarians!), to listen to Jesus, to read (and hear!) His Word. We hike up the side of a mountain (or hill, if you prefer) to a building which says "Seminario Luterano El Reformador" on its side. You can probably get the gist of what that says, right? The building was built to be part of a future seminary to teach, equip and form Dominican men to be pastors and women to serve as deaconesses. For nearly ten years, an actual seminary in the Dominican Republic has been a dream. By God's grace, later in 2017, that dream will become reality.

The picture above shows a worker on top of our new building at the bottom of the mountain, with the original seminary building seen above. The building on the hill will become a dormitory. The classrooms, offices of faculty, as well as

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To subscribe to our newsletter send Joel an email at Joel.Fritsche@lcmsintl.org.

other space is under construction, the third level of our church and school in Palmar Arriba. Soon the new construction will be complete. I have been privileged to recently become involved with this behemoth of a project, discussing and planning with colleagues everything from the grand vision of the seminary down to the minute details of student life.

Why are we building a seminary in a small community north of the second largest city in the Dominican? We're doing it so that Dominicans (and Latinos from other countries!) can listen to God's beloved Son. We're doing it so that men can preach the transfigured, crucified and risen Christ so that many may come to believe and confess as Peter did. Ultimately, I am called here to serve as a church planter. But we need local pastors to serve. We need deaconess to be on the forefront of our mercy work. Thanks be to God, He is providing abundantly for such servants through you. Thank you! Keep an eye out for more seminary updates in the months ahead. *Pastor Joel & Clarion Fritsche & Family*

Pre-Sem Bible Study



Seminary Construction



Future Dominican Pastors!

FRITSCHÉ FAMILY HOME SERVICE: APRIL 8-JUNE 12

I believe that we announced in one of our recent newsletters that we would be on home service in June and July of 2017. Recently, with Joel's increased involvement with the new seminary, we have moved up our dates. We would love to see as many of our supporters as possible. Home service will begin with a presentation to an LWML zone in Arkansas and end with Divine Service and a presentation to Joel's childhood home congregation in Houston. For half of our time, we are setting up our home base in St. Louis, as it is central to many of our supporting congregations in Missouri and Illinois. I wish that we could get to everyone on a Sunday morning, but that's not possible. That being said, we would love to come and do a special evening presentation, or to present during a weekday Bible study, school chapel time, etc. to update congregations and groups on our work. Attached is a list of what we already have scheduled. We are open to other opportunities in between. If you have an interest in hosting us for a presentation, please let Joel know soon and we will do our best to work something out. Home Service is also a time to rest and spend time with family in the United States, so we will be spending some time around Holy Week and Easter with family in Houston, Texas.

Financial Support

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to either of the following:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Joel & Clarion Fritsche." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at www.lcms.org/fritsche or call 888-930-4438.

Prayer Support

Please pray...

- For completion of the seminary construction and curriculum plans.
- For our 15 seminary students coming from around Latin America, but especially for Ariel and Adony, students from here in the DR.
- For our upcoming forum meeting with our DR mission partners, March 3-6.
- For Pastor Willy Gaspar, on sabbatical in February and March.
- For the marriage of Clarion's brother on Feb 18.



FRITSCHKE FAMILY HOME SERVICE 2017

April 8 - June 12

April 2017

- 8th - LWML Mid-Arkansas Zone Meeting (Searcy, AR)
- 9th - Divine Service & Presentation, Faith LCMS (Fairfield Bay, AR)
- 23rd - Divine Service & Presentation, Trinity LCMS (Hoyleton, IL)
- 29th/30th - Divine Service & Presentation, St. John LCMS (Plymouth, WI)

May 2017

- 3rd - Reconnect Day at the LCMS International Center (St. Louis, MO)
- 5th - Presentation at Mission Central (Mapleton, IA), 1:00pm
- 7th - Divine Service & Presentation, Hope LCMS (St. Louis, MO)
- 10th - Presentation @ St. John LCMS (Washburn, IL)
- 14th - Divine Service & Presentation, St. John LCMS (Russellville, AR)
- 21st - Divine Service & Presentation, Our Savior LCMS (Milford, IL)
- 28th - Divine Service & Presentation, Zion LCMS (Columbus, OH)

June 2017

- 4th - Divine Service & Presentation, Lord of Life LCMS (Plano, TX)
- 7th - Presentation, Holy Shepherd LCMS (Haslet, TX)
- 11th - Divine Service & Presentation, Our Savior LCMS (Houston, TX)



We would love to tell you about our life and work as LCMS missionaries in the Dominican Republic! We have plenty of weekday openings for presentations at Lutheran schools, Bible studies, LWML meetings, evangelism meetings, etc. Contact Pastor Fritschke to schedule a time at...

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