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Coat of Arms from the flag of the Dominican Republic

HOME SERVICE PLANNED FOR JUNE/JULY 2019

The Fritsche family is making plans for home service during the months of June and July. Home service consists of six weeks of travel, visiting and reconnecting with partner congregations, as well as two weeks of rest, spending time with family in the states. We have already had requests to have a presence at LWML and LCMS national conventions. We are planning to spend a couple of our six weeks visiting partners in the northwest, as we have not been able to get there in the past. We will do our best to see as many of you as we can, but Sundays are few and we recognize that we cannot make it to see all of you. Thank you for understanding. We are in the process of confirming some initial stops on our schedule and will soon be in touch about available days for visits. **Please consider hosting a visit on a weekday or weeknight in your congregation.** It can be planned alongside a Bible study, board or council meeting, a meal or even an ice cream social. Thank you, everyone!!!



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to joel.fritsche@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Make Disciples of All Nations!



The Baptism of Ayla Sofia at Iglesia Luterana Confesional de Pueblo Nuevo

It is always a joy to report about baptisms here in the field. On Sunday, January 6, the Epiphany of our Lord, Ayla Sofia was brought by her parents to the waters of Holy Baptism. We didn't baptize six or ten or twenty people that day, just little newborn Ayla Sofia. Sometimes in the field we do several baptisms on the same day, sometimes we simply rejoice in one. It's not really about the numbers. It's about Jesus! HE is the One who is at the heart of this new family of faith!

Ayla's parents, Carlos and Giselle, were invited to church a little over a year ago by missionaries Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann. Carlos is a driver for Uber. Not long after the Naumanns arrived on the field, they met Carlos, who had responded to their call for a ride with Uber. A relationship was forged that day, and Carlos became a regular driver for them, as well as a friend and helper for getting things done. It's always a blessing to have a local friend to help with getting things done around town, especially when you are first learning the language.

Along with Carlos, the Naumanns met Giselle, his girlfriend. Through the encouragement of the Naumanns, Carlos and Giselle began coming to church in Pueblo Nuevo. I was still serving in Las Americas. Pastor Sergio Maita was the pastor in Pueblo Nuevo. He began catechesis, as well as premarital instruction. Carlos and Giselle were married in the church. Not long after they were confirmed in their Christian faith and began partaking of the Lord's Supper. What comes next? BABY!

I had the privilege of visiting this couple the few months leading up to the birth of their child. We heard Scripture speak of the blessing of children, the vocations of mother and father and the gift of Holy Baptism. God blessed Carlos and Giselle with the birth of Ayla, and soon after, her new birth through the water and Word of Holy Baptism.

Make disciples of all nations! What a joy: sharing Jesus, Baptism, Catechesis, Confirmation, Holy Communion! To God be the glory, great things HE has done and continues to do in Christ!

Updates from the Missionary Wife

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our congregation in Pueblo Nuevo as we consider moving the church to a larger space in the community.
- Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann, as Jonathan awaits word from his doctor about returning to the field.
- Our upcoming Dominican Republic FORO in early March, that the Lord would raise up new FORO partners to support our DR missions.
- Missionary friends Pastor James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf, who will begin their service in Puerto Rico at the end of February.
- The father of missionary colleague, Pastor James Sharp, who is in critical condition in Texas.
- Our family as we make plans for home service in June and July of this year.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Andrei's growth hormone treatment is going very well, with no negative side effects.
- Eight people currently in catechesis in our Pueblo Nuevo congregation.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The Baptism of Ayla Sofia and her Christian parents, Carlos and Giselle.
- The birth of Lars Jacob Preus to missionary family Rev. Dr. David and Jenny Preus.



Andrei receives his first batch of growth hormone in Houston!

We are off and running through 2019! What a great beginning it has been to this year. We are truly blessed!

One of the most exciting things for our family is that our youngest has finally started his growth hormone therapy.

Andrei and I traveled to Houston in December to pick up the hormone that he needs. He takes an injection every night and we are so excited to see this little firecracker grow! Joel will travel back with him in April and we will see how much he has grown in four months.

It seems growth is ongoing with these boys and it is a joy to watch and participate in. My heart swells with pride as I see them playing music for church on Sundays, speaking Spanish, or sharing the Gospel with others. The mission field offers joys and challenges and they seem to accept both with a wonderful amount of enthusiasm.

Home schooling continues to keep us busy. Sergei just finished our first Latin book, has started reading *Treasure Island*, completed the first semester of *Mystery of History*, is working on Chemistry, and is enjoying narrative writing in composition.

Viktor has really enjoyed his most recent studies of Plato's *Republic* and *Socrates Meets Jesus*. We have had some great discussions about justice, logic, and faith. I am really proud of the ownership he has taken of his education. What he is really looking forward to is taking driver's education online and receiving his permit this summer. I, of course, am not as excited as he is!

We continue to enjoy the stability of living in one home in Santiago and look forward to sharing our life and work with you this summer. God bless!

Clarion



Recent picture of the three boys on the roof of the seminary

We are blessed to be serving our Lord in the Dominican Republic. The Lord is blessing the preaching of His Word and the administration of His sacraments. We are grateful for your partnership in this work. God bless you all!

In Christ,

**Rev. Joel & Clarion Fritsche
Viktor, Sergei and Andrei**



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Joel & Clarion Fritsche, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Rev. Joel Fritsche." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/fritsche.

NOV '18-FEB '19 IN PICTURES

