



Coat of Arms from the flag of the Dominican Republic

DR FUN FACTS

The world's largest pot of Sancocho, a traditional Dominican stew, was prepared at the Seventh Annual Dominican Fair at La Sirena on Feb. 12, 2007. After five hours of cooking, 3,000 spectators got to eat the savory Dominican meal. Eleven chefs and their assistants used 300 pounds of beef, 250 pounds of pork, 150 pounds of chicken and 500 plantains to make the Sancocho.



DOMINICAN SANCOCHO



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joel.fritsche@lcmsintl.org

Back to the Dominican Republic



Clarion and Vik sitting outside of the Lutheran church in Palmar Arriba before Wednesday evening Divine Service.

Greetings in the name of Jesus from the Dominican Republic! After 2 1/2 months of home service and almost constant traveling, the Fritsche family is back in the Dominican Republic. Our time in the United States was wonderful, yet exhausting. It was exhausting to be on the move from Sunday to Sunday and much of the time in between. But at the same time it was wonderful to share about our life and work and the Dominican Republic and receive such a warm welcome from so many congregations and individuals that we had the opportunity to visit. It is incredibly encouraging and exhilarating to have been among so many folks who support us with such passion. Of course, we are grateful for the financial support of everyone. But over and above that, it is obvious that our supporters are passionate about Lutheran missions in the Dominican Republic. Thank you for sending us back with a bang! We

returned tired from travel, but energized for what the Lord has given us to do.

This past Sunday Joel was back in the pulpit at Las Americas. We celebrated the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. Currently the deaconess class at Amigos de Cristo is studying the Augsburg Confession. Joel preached on the parable of the great banquet and tied in the history of what took place at Augsburg in 1530. As the German princes presented their confession before the emperor, they did so ready to forsake all, even their very lives for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They confessed their faith not only for themselves, but for their families, for the coming generations, and even for you. In that respect, confession is mission. The goal is that all may know Jesus Christ, believe in Him and have life in His name, that we all may celebrate together in the Great Banquet, the eternal feast of the Lamb in his Kingdom that has no end!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Continued preparations to begin classes at the seminary on August 21st.
- Our church in Las Americas as we continue to organize and mobilize leaders to take charge in different areas of congregational life and work. They are doing so well!!!
- Andrei as we seek growth hormone therapy in the Dominican Republic, that we find a good pediatric endocrinologist and develop a workable plan.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Vicar Paul Flo, Pastor Sergio Fritzler and Deaconess Danelle Putnam, who went above and beyond serving in Santo Domingo during our home service absence.
- A fruitful home service experience reconnecting with congregations, family and friends.

PRaise GOD FOR:

- The fruit that His Gospel is bearing in the DR and throughout Latin America.

Updates on Life and Work



Joel couldn't wait to see the progress on the new mercy center and seminary building!

Now that we are back, we are working on finding what our new "normal" is. We essentially live in two cities now. Joel, as Director of the new Mercy Center and Seminary, needs to spend significant time in Santiago, but he is also continuing to serve as a church planter in Santo Domingo. Thankfully, housing costs are very reasonable, so we are able to have living space in Santiago and Santo Domingo. Clarion and the boys have the option of spending time in Santiago, enjoying the larger missionary community available there, or staying in Santo Domingo to enjoy a bit more stability as they begin a new year of homeschooling. Either way, the Lord is blessing us as we jump back into things.

The seminary faculty, along with numerous DR missionaries have accomplished a ton in our absence. In these next two months leading up to the opening of the seminary on August 20, we will be completing the visa process for our 11 incoming students, renting apartments for married students, finalizing meals and housing arrangements for single students, furnishing seminary classrooms, offices and space in the mercy center. The academic plan and schedule is being finalized. We are working on providing an energy infrastructure utilizing solar technology. We are also working on building a library. We have a rather large digital library, but as part of our accreditation plan, we will be required to have a physical library with a certain number of volumes.

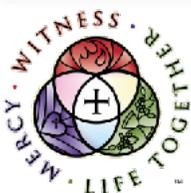
Some of you have asked about our son Andrei. During our time in the states we had numerous tests run related to his growth hormone deficiency. We brought back a packet of information, including test results, so that we can pursue growth hormone treatment here in the DR. Everything is currently being translated into Spanish and we hope to visit a specialist next week.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we resume our work in the DR. The Lord be with you!

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.

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034