



N O V E M B E R - 2 0 1 9

SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



## *The Lord of Peace!*

*Nativity scene under the Christmas tree at our Lutheran School in Licey, Santiago, Dominican Republic*

**Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh —  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Thou the Father's only Son,  
Hast o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?**

**Brightly doth Thy manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'er cloud this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright.**

( by Martin Luther)

*Que el Señor de paz mismo les dé paz siempre.*

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all (2 Thess. 3:16).*

Divine Services in our Latin America and Caribbean missions are followed by a greeting of peace. Each worshipper embraces or kisses the cheek (or the air next to the cheek) of EVERY other worshipper, while also speaking the words: *la paz de Cristo* (the peace of Christ). Though this is often an awkward custom for North Americans, it comes fairly easy to those who live in our region.

Since apostolic times, the moment of the "passing of the peace" in the context of worship has varied. After the service, as practiced here, seems appropriate - as we remind ourselves and others as we part ways for the week, that we are reconciled to God and to one another, because of the forgiveness our sins that Jesus made possible by His atoning death and resurrection.

As I travel to various LAC countries to provide care to our missionaries, I'm usually a stranger to those attending worship services. Still, it is meaningful to be given the "peace of Christ" in those congregations where I am meeting people for the first time. Several New Testament verses come to mind: 'I was a stranger, and you invited me in' (Mt. 25:35); Greet one another with a holy kiss (2 Cor. 1:12); Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives Him who sent me (Mt. 10:40).

**What a joy it is for us to be able to share the words of our Savior, the Lord and Prince of Peace, and to have YOU in partnership with us in this venture. We thank God for all of the ways that you serve Him in your Christian walk, wherever you live and whatever your vocation.**

*Pastor Jonathan*



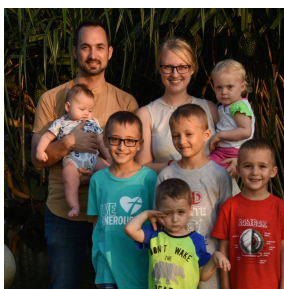
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Dear friends in Christ,

Just as Advent is a busy season in your homes and churches, the same is true here in the DR, so we will use this end-of-November newsletter to wish all of you a most happy Advent & Christmas!

Thank you for all that you have done to bless us in 2019, with your prayers, your financial gifts, and your words of encouragement.

**Merry Christmas!**

*Deaconess Cheryl & Pastor Jonathan*



**PHOTO GALLERY... Since Christmas is a time when we think of celebrating the birth of our Savior with family members, we want to share photos of our 6 children, spouses and 19 grandchildren:**

- 1) Brian (London, England)
- 2) David & Laura, Felicity, Arthur, Ralph (Birmingham, England)
- 3) Edward & Monica, Martin, William, Charles, Robert, Emily, Alfred (Colombo, Sri Lanka)
- 4) Gordon & Marta, Hannah, Ruth, Phoebe, Vaughn, Lois, Matthias (Scarsdale, NY)
- 5) Nigel & Persis, Zara (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 6) Dorothy & Micah (Glenn), Jonathan, Talitha, David, plus their high school exchange students, Luca and Sebastian (St. Louis, MO)

**Mercy Center workshops on Disaster Response:**

- 7 & 8) Mercy Center workshop at Lamb of God Lutheran Church and School, Licey, DR, on Nov. 25.
- 9) Disaster Response workshop at Concordia Lutheran Church and School, Palmar Arriba, DR, Nov. 22.
- 10) Workshop teacher, Pastor Gustavo Maita (currently serving in Puerto Rico) engages participants in small group discussion



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*Please include in your prayers*

+ Thanksgiving for the gift of God's incarnate Son, Jesus Christ! + Thanksgiving for the two well-attended Mercy Center workshops on Disaster Response held in the DR - especially that they were attended by our school teachers, some parents, congregation members, and people from the communities. + That God will raise up more men from the LAC region to serve as pastors in our Lutheran missions and partner church bodies; + Thanksgiving that God's Word is taking root in the hearts of many Latin American people who learn of His love and saving grace through the preaching, mercy work and witnessing of LCMS missionaries. + That God would grant good transitions to our six new missionary units in Latin America, and that He would give good physical, mental and spiritual health to all who serve in missions, especially during the holiday season when they may be far from loved ones.

**Please consider giving a tax-deductible gift to support our mission work during this Advent and Christmas season!**

+ Online at [www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann](http://www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann)

+ By phoning the LCMS donor care line: 888-930-4438

+ By mailing checks to The LCMS, PO Box 66861, Saint Louis, MO 63166-6861 with "Jonathan Naumann - Latin America" on the check memo line