

Dedication of Church in Las Americas • Pastor Ted Krey

On October 9th our first Lutheran sanctuary in Las Americas, just east of the capital, Santo Domingo, was dedicated. The service began outside of the church on the back piece of the property, in the same place where we had celebrated divine services under a little tarp tent for the past two years. From here, over three hundred people then processed to the new sanctuary, behind a procession of banners (which ladies from our different missions had made for the occasion), followed by our 6 seminarians (carrying the communionware, Baptismal font...), followed by 15 children and youth who were to be baptized and then by 8 pastors. A trumpet accompanied us as we sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" and proceeded to the entrance of the sanctuary where the dedication took place.



Once inside, sins were confessed and absolution given by Pastor Willy Gaspar. Visiting professor, Rev. José Pfaffenzeller, of Concordia Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina, preached on the narrow path of salvation that is found only by faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Then, each of the 9 pastors took turns assisting with the baptisms of the 15 youth and children who had been prepared for this moment. Following the general prayer of the church, three adults were

confirmed and Pastor Willy Gaspar celebrated the Lord's Supper. Representatives from all five of our missions were present to receive of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in this holy place, that had been dedicated to Him, had served us this day through absolution, baptism, the preaching of His Word and His most Holy Supper. Give thanks with us to God the Father, in Jesus' Name, that His Holy Ministry goes forth, and that our Lord is with us in this place!



We thank the Lord for the many faithful and loving servants who have walked alongside us here, including those who helped to raise funds, both for the purchase of the property and for the construction of the church, the five mission teams who helped with the building project, and Brian and Jeanette Keller, of South Wisconsin District, who supervised all aspects of the church construction.



Full Table • Pastor Walter Ries Jr.

Several months ago, Eduard, who is 21 years old, invited his neighbours and friends to attend a catechism class being held at his house. Eduard himself has completed the confirmation course about 5 times. On his own initiative, he gathered together a group of youth and adults, and then simply invited us pastors to teach the classes. Talk about a Pastor's dream!

Then with great joy, on September 28th, we celebrated the conclusion of this confirmation course with 11 people confessing their baptismal faith, during our regular Divine Service. We also witnessed, during the same service, six people brought into the Christian faith, through baptism, having their sins forgiven them by Water and the Word. Our Lord Jesus Christ continues to call many unto Him through His preached Word, and we give thanks that we are able to see and hear for ourselves as new souls are added to His kingdom.

Two years ago, we celebrated the first confirmations in this mission. Now, in Palmar Arriba, over 50 brothers and sisters in Christ have made a confession of faith. On the evening of Sept. 28th, we had not taken into account how many we now are, and so at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper, both pastors found themselves breaking the final sole wafer in half so that we could together partake of His body! What a wonderful predicament to find ourselves in.

Once again, following the confirmation of this group, Eduard has already gathered another 8 individuals to begin catechism classes on his back patio. We rejoice for his zeal to serve His Lord in seeking out the lost.

Please continue to pray for all of those in our missions who are studying His Word, and those also recently confirmed, so that the fiery darts of the devil would not tear away that precious faith so freshly seeded in their hearts.

New Partnerships for Our School • Vicar Adrian Solis

Concordia Lutheran School was blessed to have five Lutheran school principals visit us from Wisconsin and Florida. The principals had the opportunity to see a little bit of Santiago and a lot of our school. A new partnership was forged in which these five Lutheran schools will support us in curriculum development, Lutheran teacher training, and support of our personnel in prayer and encouragement.

We are thankful for their enthusiasm, encouragement and support, and pray that our Lord would bless this new partnership. Pray for us as we work together to raise children who are strong in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and who are excellent citizens as well. We thank Mr. Mark L'Heureux of South Wisconsin District and Mr. Larry Ryan of Fort Myers, Florida, for their leadership in the project.