



J A N U A R Y - 2 0 1 9

SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



## Welcome to God's Family, Ayla Sofia!

What a joy it is to see parents bringing their little children to the house of the Lord to receive the gift of Baptism, in which they become members of God's family and heirs of eternal life! Little Ayla Sophia is the daughter of Carlos and Giselle, the first couple to be married in the Pueblo Nuevo mission.

Deaconess Cheryl gets some of her "grandma snuggles" when holding her goddaughter!

*'Elevo mis ojos a los montes; ¿de dónde vendrá mi socorro?  
Mi socorro viene del Señor, creador del cielo y de la tierra.'*

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

*Psalm 121:1-2*



Looking north  
from our home  
in Santiago de  
los Caballeros,  
Dominican  
Republic.  
January, 2019.

Shortly after returning to the DR in January, we learned that Eddie, a local plumber/electrician often employed at our mission sites, fell from a roof and broke both of his legs. With no health insurance, and out of work for at least two months of recovery, but still needing to support his family, this accident came as a real tragedy for Eddie.

Eddie's misfortune has given the people of our mission churches a chance to show God's love to him and his family. Many have prayed for him, visited him, given gifts of food, and even dipped into their own meager resources to help with medical bills. More than that, these same people who feel moved to use their hands and feet in service to their neighbor have made it obvious that the source of their love for Eddie comes from God, who first loved them through the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The month of January has been a difficult one for our missionary families in Latin America as well, with a lot of illness; some car accidents; robbery; losses of power or water; and concern for the safety of pastors and relatives in troubled places such as Venezuela. During such times we cry out to God, knowing that our help comes from Him (Psalm 121).

We are also comforted by the knowledge that YOU are praying for us and the people whom we serve. **THANK YOU!**

*Thank you, to our LCMS congregations and hosts!*

**November 25-30:** Norman & Hilda Dietsch and Holy Cross, Houston, MO; Salem Lutheran, Salem, MO; Faith of Our Fathers, Crete, NE; First Lutheran, Plattsmouth, NE; PacificHills, Omaha, NE; Peace, Waverly, NE; Pilgrim, Bellevue, NE; Faith Lutheran Church and School, Lincoln, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Lincoln, NE; Mount Calvary, Omaha, NE.

**December 2-23:** Pastor Jon & Jenny Sollberger and Immanuel, Louisville, NE; Bethlehem, Pleasant Dale, NE; Immanuel, Rising City, NE; Pastor David & Peggy Palomaki and Redeemer, David City, NE; Pastor David & Tammy Kuhfal and Grace, Neligh, NE; St. Matthew, Cedar Bluffs, NE; Immanuel LWML, Lincoln, NE; Faith, Humboldt, NE; Good Shepherd, Gretna, NE; Immanuel LWML, Columbus, NE; Jon and Irene Sparks and St. John, Farley, MO; Pastor Michael & Cindy Strong and Zion, Farmersville, IL; Steve & Deaconess Lauren Olsen and St. John's, Union, IL; Bethlehem, Dundee, IL; Grant & Karen Schoon and Zion, Akron, OH; Deaconess Heidi Lundquist and Lutheran Life Villages, Fort Wayne, IN; John & Carol Marcus, Canton, MI; Angelica, Allen Park, MI; Grace, Lakewood, OH; Trinity, Scarsdale, NY.





Kelly Schumacher, founder of Agnus Dei Liturgical Arts (<http://agnusdeiarts.com/>) is serving as a short-term missionary artist in the DR during the month of January. Collaborating with Deaconess Cheryl and the Mercy Center, Kelly taught several art classes at Concordia Lutheran School in Palmar Arriba, provided special classes for missionary children, and lectured on how art can be used in proclamation of the Gospel, using many of her own pieces as examples.

While in the DR, Kelly is also painting a picture which will hang in the main conference room of the Mercy Center. Kelly was commissioned to paint this picture - underwritten by the Mary Martha Guild of Trinity Lutheran Church, Scarsdale, NY - in loving memory of Edith DeCecca, a member of that congregation who loved religious art.

The models for the painting are children from Concordia Lutheran School, from Good Shepherd Lutheran Home, and last but not least, Odalis (who works in the local hardware store) served as the model for Jesus!

Photo 3 above shows Kelly sharing her expertise in the area of liturgical art. Photos 1, 2, and 4 record her progress on the painting, which she will finish before returning to the US on January 31. Watch for a nice photo of the final product in our next newsletter!

At one of our recent mission presentations in the US, someone asked me how much money the National LWML gave for the building of the Mercy Center in the Dominican Republic. The answer is \$80,000. As most of you know, this new structure was dedicated in October of 2017. Not many years before that, the LWML also funded the building of Good Shepherd Lutheran Home, which is our group home for disabled children in Palmar Arriba. We are grateful to the ladies of the National LWML for taking on these larger projects.



The two of us are also grateful to all of the women's groups, men's group, congregations and individuals who support our work with their financial gifts and prayers. We wouldn't be able to be here without all of you! **THANK YOU!**

*Pastor Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl*



**Far left:** Pastor James Neuendorf, in the DR for field orientation before deployment to Puerto Rico. **Above:** Vicar Mario leads Bible Class in Pueblo Nuevo; **Far right:** Carlos, Giselle, and Vicar Mario at the Baptism of Ayla Sofia.

### *Please include in your prayers*

+ That the carton of books for the seminary library would soon arrive safely in the DR; + Thanksgiving for the arrival of Pastor James & Deaconess Christel Neuendorf to the DR for orientation before they deploy to Puerto Rico; + that God would bless the evangelism efforts that could lead to new church plants in the DR; + for Eddie, that his two broken legs would be completely healed; + for courage and encouragement, good health and protection from evil, for us and for all LCMS missionaries as they serve in various capacities and different regions of the world.

**Tax-deductible gifts to support the work of Jonathan & Cheryl Naumann can be given:**

- + 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**

