

Five Years of Ministry Celebrated with Five Special Celebrations and Projects • Pastor Walter Ries Jr.



Confirmation Class
-Mission in Licey

It seems hard to believe, but, by God's grace, we are celebrating 5 years of ministry in the Dominican Republic. Lord-willing, we hope to begin our celebrations this year with the ordination of Vicar Willy Gaspar on March 12th in Las Americas. In the same divine service we will sign a protocol document with the Argentinian seminary, committing us to establishing our very own independent seminary by 2017 for the training of pastors, deacons and deaconesses. The day after, Monday, March 13th, will be the inauguration of our group home in Palmar Arriba, as we thank God for the opening of many doors for the completion of this project, and for the privilege we have to care for these 6 orphans, His children. Other celebrations would be the dedication of a sanctuary in Las Americas, which is yet to be built, and, in August, the celebration of five years of Ministry in Palmar Arriba. Finally, we conclude our anniversary year of celebrations with a joint service on Reformation Sunday.

Our anniversary projects include, building our first sanctuary in Las Americas, building a second group home, buying property for our mission in Santiago and buying property for our church/seminary in Licey. Give thanks together with us for our Lord Jesus from whom all blessings do flow!



Pastor Walter Ries Jr. talks
with Junior, one of our
orphans in the group
home

Special news from the mission field:

- Volunteer couple, Brain and Jeanette Keller, plan to arrive early Feb. to start construction of the church in Las Americas
- 2 baptisms celebrated in Palmar Arriba
- Safe arrival of CPH VBS container
- 5 confirmation classes near completion

Special Anniversary Projects

- Building a sanctuary in Las Americas
- Building a second group home
- Buying property for church and seminary in Licey
- Buying property for church in Santiago

The Fields are White • Pastor Ted Krey

We ask for your continued prayers as we conclude five different confirmation classes in our different missions. One class has five youth who have been studying for 14 months. Over the next few weeks during our divine services they will give 3 oral presentations on the 6 chief parts of the small catechism. The other four classes are made up of twenty adults, 10 men and 10 women. We are particularly excited about the first confirmations in Licey which represent our first members in this new church which is a bedroom community of Santiago.



Members of the mission in Licey meeting at the local Fire Station

Concordia School Update • Danelle Putnam

In December our school children gave a wonderful presentation of the Christmas story during the divine service. In reality, they simply sang some Christmas hymns by memory and had memorized Bible verses of prophecies and fulfillment. Four short homilies were given, such as 'Jesus as Man' and another, 'Jesus your Saviour'. A silent nativity accompanied the Bible readings and recitations in the Divine Service. More than 220 parents and members of the community packed the church and the stairway leading up to our sanctuary was full from top to bottom and many more were peering in from the side windows of the sanctuary. We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for Jesus Christ amongst us through His Word and precious Sacraments, and as this child who was really born in Bethlehem.

In January, the students' schedules were altered with the addition of new classes in art and music. Also, with the hiring of a new teacher, computer classes are now taking place. Plans are also underway to set up a library and to encourage reading skills. This month, we have begun preparing Bible verses and learning Easter hymns for a special Easter presentation this spring.



Christmas in Santiago

Prayer Requests

- For the 6 new orphans as they continue to adjust to life in our group home.
- For our new volunteer couple, Brian and Jeanette Keller, who are set to arrive in the DR early this February, pray for them as they set up house and begin supervising the construction project in Las Americas.
- Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of the CPH container with VBS offerings.
- For Pastor Ted Krey as he begins his new role as the LCMS Regional Director for Latin American and the Caribbean, and as he continues as a missionary in the Dominican Republic.
- For Danelle as she is in the States until the end of the month, working on completing her Masters in Christian Outreach.
- For safety for Vicar Willy Gaspar and Brian Keller on all their travels in Haiti. Also, for Vicar Willy's upcoming colloquy exams for ordination.
- For all who are in confirmation classes around the country.
- For the construction of a new sanctuary in Las Americas, a new group home, the purchase of property in Santiago and Licey.
- For the volunteer construction teams as they make plans to help in the DR.
- For LCMS WR HC staff and the Haitian Lutheran church as they together show mercy to those in need.
- For fellow missionaries around Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain.