



SERVING THE LORD IN

Puerto Rico

The Mission *Marches* On



¡Adiós Puerto Rico!

It's hard to believe, but our time in Puerto Rico is already coming to an end. We have been here for over a year already. Paul has successfully passed his vicarage, and we are beginning preparations to return to the US. The missionary team held a farewell party for us this month so that we could gather once more as a group and say our final goodbyes. It was a bittersweet time with many kind words shared. **WE WILL LEAVE PUERTO RICO ON APRIL 23** and be in Wisconsin with Paul's parents until returning to Fort Wayne in July.



What a month March was for us and for the mission in Puerto Rico. The month began with our Spring Foro in Mayagüez. Then we dove into the heart of Lent. Paul preached Ash Wednesday and every Wednesday in Lent, focusing each midweek on one or two of the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-12, with an emphasis on Christ Jesus who is THE blessed one and for whose sake we are also blessed, even and especially when we suffer as Christians. We also had our farewell party with the missionary team this month. Yes, somehow it is already the end of our time in Puerto Rico! March was our last *full* month of ministry in Puerto Rico. We ended the month with a very special Palm Sunday confirmation and the start of Holy Week. Holy Week is sometimes called *la semana mayor* in Spanish, meaning essentially “the greatest week.” Indeed, a great week it is, as we live out the central story of the Christian faith and life, following Jesus to the cross and then rejoicing at the empty tomb and the hope of eternal life that his resurrection gives us. On Easter, Paul delivered his final sermon to cap off an incredible vicarage and missionary experience. We are now preparing to return to the US and then to seminary. We depart Puerto Rico April 23. **This will be our last newsletter from Puerto Rico, but not our last contact with you all.** Keep an eye out for one final letter in April as we make our transition back to the states and reflect on our time in Puerto Rico. We will be giving you lots of information on how you can stay connected and continue your support of the Lord's work in Puerto Rico. Until then, the peace of Christ and the joy of his resurrection be with you.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to courtney.mroczenksi@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

La Paz de Cristo (The Peace of Christ),

Paul, Courtney, & Jacqueline Mroczenksi

Contact us:

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our preparations to move.
- Safe travels back to the US.
- Courtney and unborn baby (due September).
- That the Lord continue to send faithful workers into his harvest field in Puerto Rico and throughout the world.
- The missionaries and work in Puerto Rico, that the Lord's word be faithfully preached and many come to faith in Christ.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- An incredible vicarage, especially the new friends and family in Christ gained.
- The confirmation of Shauki and those soon to be confirmed.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which we have the sure hope of everlasting life.
- Our multitude of faithful supporters that made this international vicarage possible.

Other News & Updates

Spring Foro:

We kicked off March with our Spring Foro in Mayagüez. In addition to being able to preach in English, other highlights of the Foro for me included:

- reconnecting with Foro partners from the last Foro
- meeting new Foro partners, especially my supervisor James Neuendorf's parents and an individual who grew up very close to where I did in Wisconsin
- The cultural event, which was a tour of a small, local rum factory



A Special Confirmation:

On Palm Sunday, a young man who I have been teaching and mentoring since his arrival to the church was confirmed. We spent many hours together in the classroom. Because of his many hard questions, I am much more prepared as a future pastor, and he is much more confident in his Lutheran faith. It is a great joy and privilege to consider him a friend and brother in the Christian faith. Please pray that the Lord would bring the work he has begun in Shauki unto completion in the day of Christ Jesus our Lord and bring other young men like him to the faith in Puerto Rico.

End of Service Logistics:

We leave Puerto Rico April 23. If you would like an updated physical address for us, please let us know. Similarly, my last official day of employment with the LC—MS is June 23. We will not have access to our @lcms emails after that, so please let us know if you would like an updated email address for us. Our cellphone numbers will remain the same and are listed at the top of this page. Thank you.

Stray dogs are very common in Puerto Rico. They are not always friendly, but this cute dog was. It followed Paul for his whole walk one morning. If we were staying in Puerto Rico longer, we would have considered adopting it. Little moments like this are just one of the many unique things we will cherish and miss about Puerto Rico.



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](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Paul and Courtney Mroczenski. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include: *Mroczenski-Puerto Rico*

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