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Missouri Synod

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News from the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

Webpage: [www.lcms.org/rickman](http://www.lcms.org/rickman) Email: [Arthur.Rickman@lcms.org](mailto:Arthur.Rickman@lcms.org)

## Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*

*Psalms 115:1 (ESV)*

Please join us in giving thanks to God for His faithfulness and provisions in the midst of various challenges. As you can see from the pictures below, the tree that fell on the sanctuary of Redeemer, Balboa has been removed from the roof. However, more damage was sustained during the removal process leaving substantial holes which have since been temporarily covered to prevent more water damage during this rainy season.



While these various challenges have been overwhelming at times, we have also been reminded of God's faithfulness and how the Body of Christ comes together to care for one another. What a tremendous blessing it has been to be recently notified that Redeemer, Balboa will receive a generous grant from LCMS Disaster Response to assist with the necessary repairs and help the congregation maintain the historical architecture in accordance with the government regulations. We are so thankful for all the donors who have made this grant possible. While the repairs will still need to wait until the dry season (Dec-Mar), the congregation is beginning to make plans for these repairs and has been greatly encouraged by the prayers and support from the LC-MS. After many years and lots of petitions, Redeemer was also recently notified by the Panamanian Government that they were approved for tax-exempt status. While some final paperwork remains, this is a huge blessing, since it means the congregation will no longer be responsible for a considerable amount in back taxes and can focus on continuing to expand its ministry.

God continues to bear fruit through weekly services, Bible Studies, English classes, Catechism classes and Deaconess classes. Additionally, Eva has also been working hard preparing curriculum for classes that will be taught in the coming year.



Panama



Colombia



Mexico

....and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for health and safety for our family, especially Eva and Baby Rickman.
- ...for healing and a smooth transition to Panama for Pastor Rafael Voigt.
- ...for seminary and deaconess students as they continue classes.
- ...for local leaders in Ia IELPA and for more leaders to be raised up.
- ...thanks for the grace and eternal promises from the one who gives us all good things.
- ...thanks for the opportunities to serve His people in Latin America.
- ...thanks for all who make it possible for us to serve.

## Latin America Ministry Update—

Pastor Raphael Voigt is the pastor from Brazil who will be serving the congregation in Los Andes. His arrival to Panama has been delayed due to injuries sustained in a recent car accident in the Dominican Republic. Injury to his knee necessitated surgery, but he is now doing well, and continuing to recover. He has also been experiencing some challenges getting paperwork from Brazil that will be needed for his visa in Panama.



Please pray for a full recovery and for his paperwork to come through in a timely fashion, so he can have a smooth transition to life and ministry in Panama. Please also pray for our family as we are also facing challenges with long delays in getting paperwork needed for passport renewal, so we can return to Panama.

Demetrio was also officially accepted into the program at Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the DR and will be moving there along with his wife, Nuria, at the end of August. Please keep them in your prayers.

*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*

*2 Corinthians 9:15*

We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!

In Christ <>>,

*Arthur and Eva,*

*Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel and Mary Anna*



To support the work of the Rickman Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

ALSO, you can send your gift to:

Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of the Rickman Family.” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [www.lcms.org/rickman](http://www.lcms.org/rickman).