

The Fritsche Family

Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic



A New Deaconess on the Field

Clarion was recently consecrated as a deaconess. She will serve the LCMS here on the field in the Dominican Republic

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus! I pray this newsletter finds you all well. I am eager to tell you about the recent news from the Dominican Republic. There have been a few exciting things that I really want to share with you, our wonderful supporters.

After much prayer and consideration, I have accepted a call to serve as deaconess in the Latin America and Caribbean region. I am very pleased to be able to serve in a more official way after being on the field for 6+ years! It is a true blessing to work with the wonderful team of missionaries here.

On September 12, 2021, I was consecrated as deaconess by Pastor Ted Krey, our Regional Director. This happened at a wonderful service with all the Dominican Lutheran Churches coming together with our FORO partners to worship in Palmar Arriba. Despite a rather large rainstorm, the service was



**The DR
Coat of Arms**
God, Country
and Freedom

Please pray for...
Rosi, a member of
Pueblo Nuevo, who
broke her leg

New mission
opportunities in
Cienfuegos (Santiago)

Praise God for...
Clarion's
commissioning as a
deaconess

Demetrio, a new sem
student from Panama

Ordination of Pastor
Rudy Carbajal in
Guatemala



beautiful, and I was overwhelmed by the love and support of all. Now, I am ready to get to work!



Sem student wives gather for Bible study with Deaconess Clarion

will meet regularly for study and activities. Eventually, I will be involved in curriculum and instruction at our two Lutheran schools, in Licey and Palmar Arriba. I am very excited to begin my service as deaconess and consider it a great privilege to be part of the missionary work here.

My official start date is October 30, 2021. There is still some support raising and preparation that need to happen before I officially begin. So, I am looking to expand our network of support. If you have interest in what a deaconess is and does, if you know someone who is looking to support a missionary, or if you want to know more about the ministry in the DR, let me know and I will be happy to set up a presentation by zoom. Thank you for your support and prayers!

Concordia Seminary the Reformer: Deaconess Program

We are currently forming 140 future deaconesses in FIVE countries!

I usually write numerous updates about pastoral formation at the seminary. I am thrilled that we have started our fifth academic year AND that we have our first residential student from Panama. I will definitely tell you more in the next issue. But for now, I want to tell you about our largest program, deaconess formation, that includes 140 women across five

In my work here in the Dominican Republic, I will primarily be serving as Deaconess at Pueblo Nuevo. I will be working alongside Pastor Fritsche and the seminarians and deaconess students assigned to the church. I will be directing Sunday School and VBS. I will be involved in home visits and mercy care. I will be leading a women's group in bible study and activities. I hope to help begin a youth group with youth from all of our Lutheran Churches here in Santiago. I will also be involved in the support and mentoring of seminary student wives. We have begun a study on Proverbs 31 and

countries (DR, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama and Venezuela). 80 of those women will graduate next May. Thanks be to God!



Deaconesses and deaconess students with Pastors Ted Krey and Joel Fritsche

Deaconess formation has been taking place for a number of years throughout our region, but two years ago, once we had our residential and distance pastoral formations well underway, we brought it under the umbrella of our seminary. This has been a huge undertaking as it involves coordinating in-country intensive courses twice a year in five countries. COVID interrupted that and has kept us virtual for a year and a half, but we hope and pray to return to a mix of online and in-person courses in 2022.



Deaconesses Clarion meets with deaconess students at Pueblo Nuevo to plan work and activities.

I never had much opportunity to work with a deaconess until I arrived on the field here nearly seven years ago. I have learned the value of having a deaconess at my side. The numerous deaconesses I have worked with serve wonderfully with women and children in the congregations AND have opened doors for me to bring the Gospel in Word and Sacrament to women in the community. At Pueblo Nuevo, I now have Deaconess Clarion and SIX deaconess students working alongside her. This will give us an opportunity for getting visits reorganized and prioritized. It will help us be aware of needs in our community. These women care for the altar, the sanctuary and do a tremendous amount of work for our weekly Bible school for

children. Of course, I also have to supervise them all. But they are a tremendous blessing!

This summer and fall I have had the privilege of working with Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez on a deaconess course on the Old Testament. I assisted in the writing of the course and am currently creating videos to accompany each unit in the course manual. It takes a lot of time to prepare these, but I love the Old Testament and have truly enjoyed putting in the time to bring this course to fruition.

So why is this our seminary's largest program. Well, truthfully, women in Latin America in general are far more committed to and involved in their congregations than men. I have had numerous opportunities to get to know not only the deaconess students here in the DR, but through in country visits and countless Zoom meetings, I am continually encouraged by their zeal and eagerness to serve our Lord and His Church and be the hands and feet of Jesus in their congregations and communities.

Please keep them all in prayer, especially the 80 women who will graduate in May 2022.



DR missionary and national pastors along with FORO pastors after our seminary opening service

Family Updates

We arrived back on the field from home service on July 27. **Max** was able to join us for two weeks in the DR before flying back to the states to start his sophomore year at SPLHS in Concordia, MO. He is off to a great year with a full load of classes, cross country and choir. **Viktor** began his Senior year online with Wittenberg Academy. He is excited to be preparing for the next stage of his life, which will likely be enlisting in the US Air Force. We hope to have more info on that in the months ahead. He celebrated his 18th birthday and a week later had his wisdom teeth out. Happy

Birthday! **Andrei**, now in sixth grade, has started with Wittenberg Academy. He has also begun music theory classes and guitar lessons each week. He has enjoyed playing soccer with the seminary students on Sunday afternoons. **Joel** has been walking at least 25 minutes a day on the treadmill. He has several trips coming up, including one to Spain next week. **Clarion** is learning to balance work life and family life. She chases two boys and two dogs around the neighborhood regularly. **Thank you** to all who hosted us on home service. We are grateful for your love and support and all the prayers for our family and work. God bless you all!

Pastor Joel and Deaconess Clarion Fritsche



Viktor delivers a speech for school to missionary colleagues and families.



Joel celebrates his 47th birthday at the seminary!

SUPPORT THE MISSION WORK OF THE FRITSCHÉ FAMILY

To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Joel & Deaconess Clarion Fritsche, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Joel and Clarion Fritsche." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/fritsche.

