



July 1, 2026



Zachary, Lydia, Christopher, Malachi,  
Becky, Laura, and Matthias.

Photo by LCMS Communications/Erik  
M. Lunsford

## GET TO KNOW THE AMEN CHILDREN:

- **Zachary, 16.** Plays lots of baseball, violin, piano, and likes building things.
- **Matthias, 15.** Loves soccer and running. Plays trumpet and piano. Enjoys astronomy.
- **Lydia, 13.** Has enjoyed figure skating and looks forward to continuing volleyball. Plays flute. Bakes lots of sourdough.
- **Laura, 11.** Plays softball. Enjoys crafts and sewing. Learning piano.
- **Malachi, 9.** Enjoys almost all sports, especially football and baseball. Learning piano. Plays many card and board games.



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

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

## Walking Together in Christ's Mission



June 2026 missionary orientation cohort at LCMS International Center

Summer has a way of inviting us outdoors. We enjoy God's creation in blooming gardens, growing crops, family vacations, evenings around the fire pit, and longer days for us are mostly spent at baseball fields. It is often a season that gives us time to pause and remember the many gifts God has placed into our lives. One of those gifts is the privilege of telling others about Him.

The psalmist writes: *"Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples."* (Psalm 96:2-3)

Notice where the psalm begins. Before it speaks of the nations, it speaks of the Lord. Before it calls us to declare His glory, it invites us to bless His name. Mission always begins with worship. We proclaim Christ because He has first revealed Himself to us. We speak of His salvation because we ourselves have received His mercy through Jesus' death and resurrection.

As church planter in the Dominican Republic with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the work is to declare the Lord's glory, help establish faithful Lutheran congregations, encourage and equip local leaders, and build relationships that point people to the timeless Good News that sinners are forgiven for the sake of Jesus Christ. Through the preaching of His Word and the administration of His

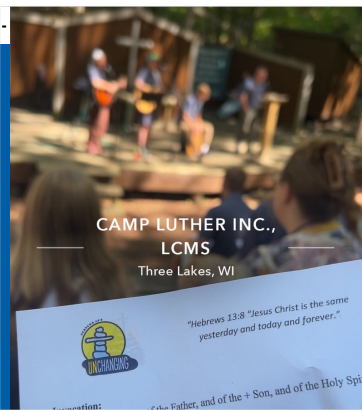
Sacraments, our Lord continues to gather His people into His Church.

It is exciting and, if we're honest, a little overwhelming. Yet we are comforted by the same promise that has sustained Christians throughout the centuries, the mission belongs to the Lord. He is the One who opens hearts, creates faith, and builds His Church. Our prayer is simply that we may faithfully proclaim Christ.

Although our future home will be in the Dominican Republic, between now and mid-October we will be spending the rest of the summer and the next several months preparing for this transition through training, partner engagement, language study, and many practical details. We look forward to spending this time with family, friends, and congregations and sharing about the work God has set before us.

As we begin sending these newsletters, we hope they will encourage you just as much as they update you. Our prayer is that together we will rejoice in what God is doing, not only in the Dominican Republic, but wherever His Word is preached and Sacraments rightly administered.

Thank you for praying for our family and for partnering with us in this mission. We are grateful for your friendship and support, and we look forward to sharing the journey with you in the months and years ahead.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Safe travels in the coming weeks and months to visit congregations.
- St. Paul, Pipestone, MN, pastoral vacancy and call process.
- Family preparations for moving.

### WE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The team in St. Louis preparing us for international service.
- The cohort of 8 missionaries and families as we learn and grow together.

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- A faithful confession and confirmation of Lydia.
- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage, and support us!

### SIGNUP TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER:



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

## Visiting the Saints, Sharing the Story

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5*

- \* Pacific Hills Lutheran, Omaha, NE
- \* Mission Central, Mapleton, IA, thanks for hosting all new missionaries and advocates. A great place for a bunch of "not normal" people to visit and learn more about the work of the Gospel of Christ going on around the world. ([missioncentral.us](http://missioncentral.us))
- \* Camp Luther, Three Lakes, WI, especially the supportive and encouraging staff. Also, a special shout out to week 3 of family camp families, with whom we have enjoyed time together for years and already given much needed prayers and support.
- \* Faith Lutheran, Plano, TX, Vacation Bible School, thanks for making us your mission project even without our presence during the week, but we hope to see you soon.
- \* St. Matthew Lutheran, Worthington, MN, Vacation Bible School thanks for letting us join for a day and making us your mission



*We are thankful that on our last Sunday at St. Paul in Pipestone, MN we were able to share with our dear church family a presentation of our upcoming service.*

*We also rejoiced on that day that Lydia made the good confession of faith and celebrated her confirmation.*

*Her confirmation verse is Isaiah 64:8: "But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."*

**Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Christopher and Becky Amen. 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 **Amen - Dominican Republic**

Gifts can also be given securely online: [lcms.org/givenow/amen](http://lcms.org/givenow/amen) or at [missioncentral.us/amen](http://missioncentral.us/amen)

Or call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438