SERVING THE LORD IN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEWS FROM THE AMEN FAMILY
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November 5, 2026



October 26 arrival in Santiago!

IMPORTANT DONOR & LCMS.ORG NOTE:

The LCMS has been in process of updating its website and giving system. It should be more accessible and user friendly, check it out at LCMS.org.

However, if you had previously setup recurring gifts through LCMS.org you should have been contacted about this already from the wonderful team at Mission Advancement. Current online giving is undesignated but you may still call the LCMS Mission Advancement team at 800-930-4483 or send in gifts by mail with a note of designation to Amen-DR.

Please forgive us if a thank you note goes unsent or is late during this time. During this process and in the transition time it will take longer for us to receive notification of gifts. When we do, we will be sure to send a notice of thanks to you. We are confident as this gets established it will become smoother for all.

Gifts through Mission Central are uneffected by this change. Neither are recurring gifts setup through your personal accounts (IRA, Trusts, or others). Thank you!

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.

Entonces Comenzamos: (so we begin)

The final month in the United States was filled with meaningful visits, special reunions, plenty of packing, and preparations for the next chapter of our missionary service in the Dominican Republic!

During our final weeks, we had the opportunity to visit several congregations throughout Illinois, including Messiah Lutheran Church in Carlyle, IL, St. Luke's in Montgomery, IL and spend our final couple of weeks at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dwight, IL, where Becky's dad serves as pastor. We are grateful for the warm welcome, fellowship, prayers, and encouragement we received along the way. We also had the joy of attending the wedding of Chase and Jessica Richards in Wisconsin, with Christopher having the privilege of officiating the service. Jessica is a member of our former congregation in Wisconsin and the daughter of Christopher's former office administrator. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with them, reconnect with dear friends, and spend time with several special people who have been part of our lives and ministry.

Of course, the final preparations also involved a considerable amount of packing! We were able to fit everything we are keeping for future use into a 10x10 storage unit. Then came the challenge of packing for deployment. Our traveling collection included 18 checked suitcases, 5 carry-ons, 1 violin, 1 trumpet, 1 flute, 5 backpacks, and 1 dog! After spending the night at Chicago O'Hare Airport in preparation for our early morning flights, we safely made our way to Santiago, Dominican Republic. We are thankful that everything and everyone arrived safely!

We are especially grateful to the LCMS Latin America and Caribbean team for helping us make this transition. A special thank you goes to the Shaver family, who graciously picked us up at the airport in the evening, and to Deaconess Tirzah Krey Musolino for her warm welcome and assistance as we begin getting settled in Santiago. Their kindness and hospitality have been a tremendous blessing to our family.

Now that we have arrived, we have begun our regional orientation, which will occupy the next four months. This includes intensive Spanish language study, cultural classes, and learning our way around the city and the surrounding community. Chris and Becky will each have approximately 12–16 hours of Spanish instruction each week, while the children will have about 8 hours. There is certainly much to learn, and we are looking forward to growing in our ability to communicate and serve our neighbors with the Gospel.



Our Chicago O'Hare luggage fort and seats for overnight stay before check-in.



Amen family with Becky's parents after service at Emmanuel Lutheran, Dwight, IL.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Transition and orientation time, not only for learning but for family adjustments.*
- *Fellow missionaries that arrived in the Dominican Republic for orientation time as they also begin their orientation and service.*

WE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Safe travels to the Dominican Republic.*
- *The Latin America missionary team as they have welcomed us, helped us in many ways learning and getting settled in.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *Overwhelming support and encouragement from so many of you all!*

SIGNUP TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER:

For the next few weeks, we will be staying in an apartment while our new home receives a few final touchups. We hope to move into the house in the coming weeks. During this season of orientation, we will also be visiting and worshiping with the other mission congregations in the region, joining our brothers and sisters in Christ around Word and Sacrament.

As we settle into this new place, we are reminded how many people have helped bring us here. Thank you to the congregations, individuals, family, and friends who have supported us through your prayers, financial gifts, encouragement, and friendship. Your partnership in this Gospel task is a tremendous blessing. We are grateful that you are walking alongside us as we begin this work.

We look forward to sharing more about our life, learning, and the ministry in the Dominican Republic in the months ahead. Please continue to keep our family, the missionaries, and the congregations we serve in your prayers. And please feel free to share our newsletter with others who might be interested in following along and joining us in this work. We are excited to keep you updated as this new chapter unfolds!



Lydia, Laura, and Malachi in Spanish class.



Amen family with St. Peter's Arlington, WI office family at Chase and Jessica's wedding.



Amen kids spending time with WI friends.



Celebrating November birthdays at Iglesia Luterana de Pueblo Nuevo in Santiago.



Celebrating Becky's birthday with cake with other missionaries and Spanish teachers.

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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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 or at missioncentral.us/amen
Or call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438