SERVING THE LORD IN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEWS FROM THE AMEN FAMILY
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October 5, 2026



Amen kids have spent lots of time on the road this summer and early fall traveling and sharing about LCMS International Mission.

AMEN KIDS MOST EXCITED FOR MOVING (HOPEFULLY) THIS MONTH:

- *Zachary: baseball (and lots of it), music school, tasting and learning to make Dominican foods.*
- *Matthias: getting settled in new home, sports especially soccer and running, hopefully joining musically in church and with others.*
- *Lydia: learning Dominican culture, traveling overseas, Santiago volleyball games.*
- *Laura: airplane ride and views, church in Spanish music, new home.*
- *Malachi: meeting new friends, trying new foods, getting back to playing sports (especially baseball).*

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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The Final Countdown

The final countdown has begun! As we make our final preparations to move to the Dominican Republic, we are looking ahead with excitement and anticipation. September we have ramped up Spanish tutoring. We have also started a mission program and class with members of our missionary cohort taught by Rev. Dr. Detlev Schulz through Concordia Theological Seminary. And provided our visa process is completed in time, we are planning to make the move by the end of October.

As we prepare for this journey, we are reminded of Abraham, whom God called to leave his homeland and go to a land that the Lord would show him (Genesis 12:1–4). Abraham went forward in faith, trusting in God's promises even though he did not know everything that lay ahead. While our journey is certainly different, we are reminded that our confidence rests not in having every detail worked out but in the Lord who promises to be with us, trusting that He will continue to guide and provide in sharing the Gospel and planting Lutheran churches in the Dominican Republic.

These final weeks are filled with both practical preparations and opportunities to reflect on the many blessings God has provided along the way. We are especially thankful for the congregations, individuals, and families who have encouraged us, supported us, and faithfully prayed for us throughout this process. Your generosity and prayers have been a tremendous blessing to our family. We are grateful that you are part of the church's mission.

As we approach our departure, we ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers. Pray for the completion of our visa process, safe travels, and a smooth transition as we settle into our new home. Most importantly, pray that God would bless the work ahead, opening doors for the proclamation of the Gospel, the planting of Lutheran churches, and opportunities to show Christ's mercy to our neighbors.

The final countdown is here. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store and thankful that we do not make this journey alone. Thank you for walking alongside us, supporting us, and keeping us in your prayers. We look forward to sharing more updates in the Dominican Republic!



After worship with one of our NV hosts and dear friends, the Davey family.



Amen family with Christopher's parents (right) and one of his sisters (middle) after service at Faith, Plano, TX.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Final preparations and arrangements this month.*
- *Health and safety.*
- *Fellow missionaries deploying this month to the Dominican Republic and Latin America and others in our cohort to other countries over the next couple of months.*

WE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Spanish tutors who have spent 6+ hours a week with Christopher and Becky each.*
- *Family and friends who have provided housing during travels.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

SIGNUP TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER:

Along the Way: Meeting Our Mission Partners

September brought many travels and opportunities to continue sharing the work of LCMS International Mission and our upcoming service to the Dominican Republic. Many of these congregations also gave us opportunities to visit with family and dear friends. There was also some family happenings during this month. Thank you for the opportunities to visit and for the support and partnerships developed in mission.

* Risen Christ, Davenport, IA: LWML and Elders
* Concordia, Geneseo, IL: Becky's brother, Rev. Stephen Mueller, serves here. We also enjoyed time for these cousins to spend Labor Day weekend together.
* Christopher, Zachary, and Matthias traveled out west to the Carson City, NV area. Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School was our first call out of seminary, and while there 3 of our kids were born. A joy to share with Bethlehem's school chapel and join them for Sunday worship and Bible Study.
* While out west we also visited Sierra Lutheran High School for chapel and Faith Formation class.



After service at Concordia, Geneseo, IL

* We also met with Trinity Lutheran in Gardnerville, NV and people from Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran in Carson City. We are also thankful for continued friendships and especially our host families for this trip.
* We made a trip back to Minnesota for a Mission Festival at Immanuel, Ormsby, MN along with the saints from Trinity, Trimont, MN.
  * This also gave opportunity for Zachary to attend Pipestone's homecoming game and dance. It also allowed for us to take care of a few items at our Pipestone home.
  * Over this same time, Matthias completed his driver's test and permit exam. His permit picture then became his final picture with braces. After 2.5 years his braces were removed and retainers fit.
* Faith, Plano, TX: Christopher's childhood congregation and school.
* Faith, Wylie, TX men's study and Messiah, Keller, TX school chapel.
  * These visits also gave us valued time with Christopher's family during this week.
* St. Matthew in Conway, AR as we traveled back from Texas.
* Throughout these travels we have been thankful for opportunities to connect with other family and friends in various areas.

OCTOBER VISITS:

- *Messiah, Carlyle, IL*
- *Officiating a family friends' wedding in Wisconsin*
- *St. Luke's, Montgomery, IL*
- *Circuit 18 Winkel, Northern Illinois District*
- *Emmanuel, Dwight, IL*

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