



Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
Catonsville, MD
January 2026

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

As we begin our journey into the year of our Lord 2026, many of you perhaps are fearful. Perhaps many of you are excited. A new year can bring with it memories of years past, be they painful or pleasant, but one thing is certain: this year will bring with it challenges or changes. Perhaps you seek to change your ways with resolutions, yet we all know how that usually goes. The gymgoers who start in January often vanish by February. The old habits of which you wanted to rid yourself still remain. Perhaps you are reminded of all who no longer walk this earth but have been called into their eternal glory. This time can be bittersweet for many, as the excitement and hopes of the year ahead mingle with the pangs of grief. Amidst all these, there is one constant: you are not alone, and there is one thing which remains constant, no matter which century or decade or year it turns.

To be clear, there is nothing wrong with seeking to be a better person or to improve yourself. What is more, there is nothing wrong with the experience of grief or pain when it feels as though you should rejoice. When you fail your resolutions, know that it is not the end of the world. When it feels as though this year may be dark, know that the light has come into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. At the same time, it can be hard to know where to turn when these things happen.

God is constant. How blessed are we, that though the gods of this world are but lifeless distractions, our God is the source of all life, and in Him are all things made new. How blessed are we that our God knows our grief and pain, for God the Son is human, just as we are, yet still is fully God. How blessed are we, that our sins are forgiven! See what love the Father shows, that we are called sons of God, and indeed we are!

So this year, I'm going to challenge you. Begin each day in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. That's the challenge. May the Word of God bring light to your path, as the love of God is clearly shown in His mercies, which are new each day. As you navigate this new year, remember your baptism. Lastly, I want you to remember that you are not alone; not only does God go with you, but He has given you your neighbor – your brothers and sisters in Christ, who are fellow heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. Share in one another's burdens, as good soldiers of Christ Jesus. Dear saints in Christ, love one another, as your Lord has loved you. May God bless you this year!

Vicar Malmstrom

NEWS FROM THE ELDERS

Creating a Mission Opportunity and Strengthening Relationships at St. Paul

The “St. Paul 2030” document, put together mainly by Pastor Alms, Chris Parsons, and Aaron Nelson, lays out our congregational direction over the next 5 years. Unifying our direction will indicate our priorities and will allow St. Paul to develop plans and set goals to achieve those outcomes. Three outcomes were named:

- 1) enhancing St. Paul School,
- 2) expanding our outreach programs, and
- 3) strengthening St. Paul congregation’s ability to help its members grow and develop spiritually.

The two outcomes that the elders have fully embraced and will take responsibility for are expanding our mission outreach programs and strengthening St. Paul congregation’s ability to help its members grow and develop spiritually.

Expanding our mission outreach means that St. Paul would partner with other LCMS churches and organizations in order draw new people to Christ and connect them with our Lutheran community. To this end, Pastor Alms intends to meet and brainstorm with our Circuit pastors and other Baltimore area pastors, engage with the Southeastern District to learn about best practices, support, and funding that may exist, and convene a small committee (2 or 3 persons) from St. Paul to engage with others in the Baltimore area in developing/working on/creating one mission opportunity by the fall of 2026.

Developing a Relational and Social Fellowship Ministry would direct/employ the vicar to lead/expand the youth program, create and lead a young adult ministry that would include Bible study and social events, and use volunteers to create at least one other fellowship group at St. Paul, perhaps one centered around the needs of young men.

St. Paul Altar Care

If you are interested in helping prepare our altar for services and setting up for communion, please contact Robbin Dungey. At present, the month of April has no one signed up to provide for communion and prepare the altar. Contact Robbin if you are interested in taking the month of April or if you are free to do a Sunday or two. April 5 is Easter.

New Member Orientation

A “Welcome to St. Paul” event will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 9 AM. This event is an orientation for our new members (and anyone else who is interested) to the workings of St. Paul, to how St. Paul is organized and what the various Boards and committees do.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Elders would like to begin the new year by welcoming the new members who have recently joined St. Paul. All of them have graciously shared with me, and permitted me to share with the congregation, some information about them so that we can get to know them better.

Emma Brand moved to Catonsville from Lincoln, Nebraska to teach fourth grade in our school. She grew up in Springfield, Missouri and graduated from Concordia Nebraska in 2020. You'll find her singing with the St. Paul choir, hiking in Patapsco State Park, or at home reading a good book. She also enjoys a good game of volleyball and a competitive round of bocce ball. In her own words: "I'm very grateful for this church and school! Happy to meet you!"

Most of you already know **Jon and Joy Brooks**, who joined St. Paul after being confirmed in July 2024 and currently serve as co-secretaries of the congregation. Jon and Joy are both veterans, having served in the US Marines and Air Force, respectively; both currently work for the Department of Defense. Their two sons, Thomas and John, are also members of St. Paul. Thomas is a junior at Mississippi State University studying electrical engineering and was confirmed in December after taking catechism class remotely while away at school. John, who was confirmed along with Jon and Joy in 2024, is a senior at Century High School in Eldersburg and is taking automotive maintenance classes at Carroll County Community College.

Stephanie Eng moved to Maryland in August, 2024 after accepting St. Paul's call to teach second grade in our school. Prior to that, Stephanie served as a called second grade teacher at St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Winston-Salem, NC, the church in which she was confirmed and married (and where her mother served as kindergarten teacher and interim principal), since 2002. Before becoming a mom to her triplet daughters, she had taught in the public-school sector in North Carolina for 7 years. She stayed home with her micro-daycare for 3 years and decided to go back to teaching, but this time for her home church instead of the public schools. Her daughters are now grown and have jobs of their own in 3 different states; one is married, one is engaged to be married in April, and the third isn't too far behind in getting engaged. Stephanie married her husband, Paul, this past June 26, and they currently reside in Montgomery County near Gaithersburg.

Caleb and Katrina Ferry currently live on Fort Meade, where they moved in June, 2025 and started attending St. Paul shortly after. Caleb is employed by the Air Force and Katrina works at the Y in Catonsville. Caleb's family lives in Romania as LCMS missionaries while Katrina's family lives in South Carolina. For fun, Caleb likes to solve Rubik's cubes, play board/card games, and occasionally read books. Katrina enjoys reading, sewing, and cooking.

Keegan Guyett was born in Corona, California in 2002 and his family moved all over the country before finally settling in Moorpark, California (about an hour away from Los Angeles). Keegan was raised LCMS by his mom. After graduating from high school, he attended UCLA for a bachelor's degree in chemistry/materials science and enjoyed working in research environments. Because of that, he applied for a PhD in materials engineering to do research on next-generation battery materials and is currently a second-year PhD candidate at UMD in College Park; he has about 2 years left in his program. Outside of the lab, Keegan enjoys traveling, going to concerts, learning about theology/church history, and playing volleyball.

Tanner Inman reports that he is new to Lutheranism and hopes to learn all that he can. Words that he will probably live to regret: “If there is help needed with a program or event, feel free to contact me and I will do what I can if able.” Tanner is married and in the Air Force, and loves his 2 dogs and 2 cats.

Born and raised in northwest Indiana, **Jerry Jurik** met his future lovely wife Susan in youth group at Griffith Lutheran Church. They both graduated from Valparaiso University - Jerry has an accounting degree and Susan has a degree in elementary education. They have been blessed with two sons and two grandsons, who all live in Laurel. Jerry retired a few years ago and moved from Tampa, Florida to Elkridge to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

Angela Oprea is a part-time Pre-K assistant teacher at Trinity School in Ellicott City where her son, Alex, is in 4th grade. Angie and Alex have been attending St. Paul for a few years off and on. Alex loves VBS at St. Paul and always asks to go, and Angie admits that “VBS is actually what brought us to you.” Angie and Alex (along with Angie’s husband) moved to Maryland about 8-½ years ago and have been searching for the right church home for quite a while. In the past Angie always enjoyed contemporary church music (she used to be the praise band leader for her church in Illinois), but she has found the traditional worship at St. Paul to be very therapeutic: it reminds her of her dad, who was an LCMS pastor and now resides with Jesus, so our worship style is very comforting for her. She is enjoying introducing Alex to their traditional LCMS roots.

Cole Peterson started attending an LCMS church, while attending a university in Daytona Beach, FL and loved the theology and worship. He became a member there before graduating and getting a job in Maryland. When he moved here at the beginning of 2025, St. Paul was the first church he visited, and he says that he knew right away that it would be a great place to grow in the Lord. Outside of church, Cole works at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab as an engineer and loves reading. In August, Cole married his best friend, Lucy, and she brought her (now their) dog, Hamilton, to keep them company at home.

Joseph Sansoti is 13 years old and has lived in Maryland his entire life. He is Carolyn Louden’s grandson and is a prospective student at Concordia Preparatory school. He shared that “I was drawn to St. Paul and to faith by the rich community and history in not just this congregation but the faith of Lutheranism. I have always wanted to grow closer to Christ and I could not be more excited and grateful to join Saint Paul!”

After some years of living out of the area, **Linda Schoenbrodt**, whom long-time members will remember well, has returned to St. Paul. Linda has a long history as a member of St. Paul beginning with her baptism in 1950 (at the old church building at the corner of Fremont and Saratoga in Baltimore City). Her grandparents and both of her parents were members of the congregation and were also married at St. Paul. Linda’s family followed the congregation to Catonsville, and in 1963 she was confirmed here. Linda has three grown children, all of whom were confirmed at St. Paul and now have their own families. After returning from living in North Carolina, Linda searched for a church home near where she lives. She found that “I was not able to find one that measured up to the St Paul that I knew and loved. I am blessed to return to St Paul. I’ve come home to stay!”

Alexis Walkins shared with us that “what brought me to St. Paul is to be closer to God and spread my knowledge and the gospel to everyone.” Alexis is a behavioral therapist who works with kids and is currently in graduate school working to become a child psychologist. She has 3 older brothers and 2 cats.

Jim Wedeking attended St. Paul elementary school, as did his brother, Brooks. After graduating from North County High School in Linthicum (now located in Glen Burnie) and the University of Maryland, Jim worked a number of odd jobs, including restaurant manager, documentary producer, video editor, and paralegal before attending Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law as a night student. After graduation, Jim has worked at private law firms in Washington, DC, practicing environmental law.

Peggy Wise and her family lived in Catonsville for many years and her daughters attended St. Paul’s school in the late 1980’s and early 90’s. She worked as an administrative assistant for several hospitals and retired after 17 years from the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center in Columbia, having worked with several denominations. She moved to Elkridge in 2014 and reconnected with St. Paul by listening to Sunday worship services for over 2 years. She began to attend worshipping in person last July and looks forward to serving God here as He leads.

If you have not already done so, please introduce yourselves to our new members, welcome them to our congregation, and pray for their spiritual growth as they worship and serve among us.

In His service,
Bill Oldhouser,

Board of Elders

ENGLISH CLASSES

Our free winter session English classes start on Monday, January 19. It’s a wonderful volunteer opportunity to reach out to others with God’s love. No special experience needed- just a warm smile and a willingness to help others. Talk with Irene Giguere if you can give some time to this ministry.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS

A few days before Christmas, a delivery team from St. Paul (pictured) took our Angel Tree gifts and our food baskets over to St. Thomas Lutheran Church in west Baltimore. We had quite a crew and were able to load up 4 vehicles, drive down, unload, and put items upstairs/downstairs in the church as needed. And all this in less than 2 hours!

Thank you to all who; bought and wrapped gifts, who sorted and bagged, and who helped with delivery. You are a blessing- and wasn’t this a wonderful way to celebrate the season!

"St. Thomas Delivery Team"



COAT COLLECTION

Thank you to all who donated winter coats to Orphan Grain Train. We were able to distribute over 1,100 warm coats to various churches, charities, homeless shelters in the Baltimore area, as well as sending some to Appalachia. One of the charities, Giving Back Linda's Legacy, gives out coats/blankets to the homeless on Christmas Eve (near the Jones Falls Expressway). They

also like to give out homemade cookies at that time. This year we gave them our leftover Cookie Walk goodies to give out to the homeless. So your coats and cookies were special blessings on Christmas Eve. Thank you!

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Starting January 10, Vicar Malmstrom will be doing a Bible study for members of the congregation between the ages of 20 and 30. We will be meeting downstairs at St. Paul at 5:00 p.m. For our first session, please bring a Bible. The plan is to go through St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, incorporating any particular interests that may arise. Please let Vicar Malmstrom know if you plan to attend.

BACK TO I CORINTHIANS!

Adult Bible class will return to our study of 1 Corinthians beginning on January 4th. We will finish up the epistle with good stuff on the Lord's Supper, spiritual gifts, and the Resurrection.

COMING UP:

Ash Wednesday is February 18th. Services at 11 am and 7 p.m.

Lenten Services: "All Christians One and All Rejoice" We will gather at 11 am and 7 p.m. February 25th through March 25th in a simple spoken Lenten service and focus on a great Luther hymn to guide us in our Lenten preparations.

Holy Week and Easter are March 29th through April 5th (Easter Sunday).

FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2026 IS UP!

Please note: There is a new 2026 sign-up sheet for Altar Flowers on the bulletin board. Sign up to honor and to celebrate people in your life and to beautify our sanctuary for worship.

SUNDAY SWEETS AND TREATS

It's so nice to share a sweet treat after church as we gather for fellowship. There is a regular group of people who donate delicious snacks and treats, but there are times when no one signs up. Emily Kolenda and Lynette Frech are coordinating the Sweets and Treats sign up which is located on the volunteer board at the top of the stairs.

If you wish to make a monetary contribution or supply a snack, just let us know. We will provide set up and clean up. It would be our pleasure to serve your cakes, cookies, cheese and crackers, or fruit. Whatever you'd like to donate is greatly appreciated. The drinks and paper products are provided. So grab your partner and start baking.

GREETINGS FROM THE ASSET MANAGEMENT BOARD!

Learning Cottage Update

We continue making progress. Our civil engineering firm participated in a Pre-Concept Plan Conference in December and will try to get on the Development Review Committee this month to make sure we get all the necessary paperwork filed and approvals in place..

We will continue to provide progress updates on the Learning Cottage via the newsletter.

Board Opening for FY2027

We will have an opening on the Asset Management Board for fiscal year 2027. If you would be interested in serving on the Asset Management Board for a three-year term starting in August 2026, please reach out to me. If you're not sure what the Asset Management Board is all about, feel free to attend the "Welcome to St. Paul" event on January 10th at 9 AM - I will give a brief overview of what we do, how often we meet, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns for the Asset Management Board, please e-mail Brad Johnson.

Blessings to all,
Brad Johnson

CONGREGATION MISSION BRUNCH 2026

This year's Mission Brunch will be held on Sunday, January 18th, immediately following worship. Join us for a potluck meal and presentation by LeChelle Redd, Executive Director of Faith & Work Enterprises. FWE is a full-service faith-based community center in Baltimore City that offers emergency and supportive services, individualized workforce development, and addiction and mental health care. We'll learn how the LCMS Southeastern District supports these efforts turning community challenges into opportunities for meaningful work and sharing the Gospel. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Please let us know if your family will attend, and how you can help that day.

KIDS CHRISTMAS MORNING THANKYOU!

Every year this fun-filled event is focused on the story of Jesus' birth. The entire building is buzzing with excitement as we celebrate the "Reason for the Season" through Christ-centered crafts and activities. We welcomed children and their parents from our congregation, school, and surrounding community. This event would not be possible without many volunteers. THANK YOU to everyone who helped this year.



KCM Committee members - Karyn Borth, Irene Giguere, Kate Baeder, Betsy Mitchell, and Diane Jaeger

Publicity - Pam Johnsson, Heather Krakat, Suzanne Alms, Cameron Jones

Opening Message - Pastor Alms

Craft Leaders and Assistants - Kirsten Hall, Suzanne Giguere, Katrina and Caleb Ferry, Keegan Guyett, Lissette Meyer, Linda Jones

Gingerbread House Team - Betsy Mitchell, Christina and Josh Unglesbee, Pam Piegols, Elsa Meyer, Ed Cohen

Santa and Helpers - John Borth, Emily Kolenda, Lina Meyer

Hospitality - Kate Baeder, Irene Giguere, Michelle Johnson, Lynette Frech, Audrey Siegfried

Photography - Jim Lister

Set Up & Clean Up - Steve Haar, Brian Erwin, Pam Piegols.... And many of those already mentioned who worked double duty. It was a fantastic team effort!



FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!!! I hope everyone had a great Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

A few things to update everyone on. The learning cottage is progressing, but not as fast as we need it to. We had some county meetings for approvals prior to Christmas and hope to finish those in early January. The sale of the cemetery house is also going slow as we try to get the house area reclassified from commercial to residential.

The council did finalize the church vision for 2030. With the help of Chris Parsons, we agreed on the vision and identified goals that we want to work toward over the next 2-3 years that are in line with that vision. We are now working on specific objectives that can be used for our Capital Campaign that we plan to reinvigorate and kick off in 2026. Once the specific objectives are identified, we will send out the 2030 vision, goals, and objectives to the congregation. We will also reach out to LCEF to start the Capital Campaign process. Be on the lookout for more details on this in late January/early February.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything feel free to contact me.

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson

WOMENS GUILD

Thanks to all our bakers, and to our customers. We raised a little over \$600. Because of your generosity the ladies guild will be providing a little over \$300 to support this years St Paul mission trip.

Thanks also to our youth and to the men's club who provided much needed help in delivering 32 food bags, hams, bread and angel tree gifts to St Thomas.

Carolyn Louden



LCMS PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS

In preparation for the triennial national LCMS convention next summer in 2026, St. Paul may nominate for several positions by February 18th. The nominations are for President, 1st Vice President, and the East-Southeast Regional Vice President. The first two are full-time positions while the third is a not paying, "volunteer" position. All nominees must be ordained pastors of the LCMS. St. Paul may nominate up to two names for each position. If anyone has a name they wish to be considered by St. Paul, please submit to Aaron Nelson by January 15th. St. Paul will hold a Voters meeting to select nominees in late January or early February.

2026 ANNUAL BULL AND OYSTER ROAST

Join the BLS/CPS Alumni Association at the Annual Bull and Oyster Roast on Saturday, January 31st from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. at Rosedale Gardens. Anyone who wants to support Concordia Prep is welcome to attend!

Tickets include a huge buffet with crab soup, oyster stew, hand-carved top round of beef and smoked ham from the pit, oysters on the half shell, baked ziti, sweet Italian sausage, Swedish meatballs, barbecue chicken, plus numerous salads. Soda and draft beer are also included. Eric Laughlin will be our DJ for the evening and will be taking your music requests.

Door prizes, raffles, 50/50 drawings, and more will be available! Proceeds from the evening will go towards the Concordia Prep Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Additionally, we will be holding our annual "Food Drive" at this year's event with all donated goods going to the Lutheran Mission Society. Please bring non-perishable food items to donate at check-in the night of the event.



Through January 20th, tickets are \$60 per person, or \$550 for a table of 10. If you would like to reserve a table, you must purchase a full table in advance, noting the names of the people who will be sitting at the table.

Ticket prices will increase to \$65 per person, or \$600 for a table of 10, from January 21st thru January 27th when this online site will close. Individual tickets will be \$70 at the door (cash or check only) while space is available.

<https://my.onecause.com/event/organizations/sf-001C0000014W5RiAK/events/vevt:927dd32a-3487-4af9-93f5-a6b06a8552f2/home/story>

SERVING IN JANUARY

	Cantor	Reader	Greeter	Usher 1	Usher 2
Jan 4	Steve Haar	Jay Barringer	Ed Cohen	Jeffrey Hemmeter	Matthew Harmon
Jan 11	Steve Haar	Michelle Johnson	Debbie Oldhouser	Bruce Staudinger	Chris Meyer
Jan 18	Steve Haar	Pastor Roemer	Bruce Staudinger	Paul Lubell	Brian Erwin
Jan 25	Steve Haar	Kate Baeder	Betsy Mitchell	Don Easton	Ken Waibel

DAILY READINGS

A.D. 2026	Jan. 1	Circumcision and Name of Jesus (<i>New Year's Day</i>)	Num. 6:22–27	Psalm 8	Gal. 3:23–29	Luke 2:21
	Jan. 4	Second S. after Christmas	1 Kings 3:4–15	Psalm 119:97–104	Eph. 1:3–14	Luke 2:40–52
EPIPHANY	Jan. 6	The Epiphany of Our Lord	Isaiah 60:1–6	Psalm 72:1–11 (12–15)	Eph. 3:1–12	Matt. 2:1–12
	Jan. 11	The Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 42:1–9	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1–11	Matt. 3:13–17
	Jan. 18	Second S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1–7	Psalm 40:1–11	1 Cor. 1:1–9	John 1:29–42a
	<i>or</i>	The Confession of St. Peter	Acts 4:8–13	Psalm 118:19–29	2 Peter 1:1–15	Mark 8:27–35 (36–9:1)
	Jan. 25	Third S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1–4	Psalm 27:1–9 (10–14)	1 Cor. 1:10–18	Matt. 4:12–25
	<i>or</i>	The Conversion of St. Paul	Acts 9:1–22	Psalm 67	Gal. 1:11–24	Matt. 19:27–30

ST PAUL SUPPORTS : OUR MISSIONARIES IN ROMANIA

Greetings from Romania! We appreciate your patience in waiting for this newsletter; everything has been very hectic, and so we haven't had any time to write one. But we will tell you why that was the case now! Essentially, we have arrived in Romania and are in the process of settling into our new country.

November was filled with preparations for moving abroad. We sold our cars, figured out how our phones would work, booked airline tickets, and spent days slogging through the bureaucracy required to get the documents we needed for living in Romania. We also got to spend time with our families, celebrating Thanksgiving and saying goodbye.

On November 30th, we left the United States, flying from Chicago to Frankfurt and then finally Bucharest (the capital of Romania). After about thirty hours of travel and sprinting for a flight, we rested in Bucharest for a day, and then met with our immigration lawyer. He is helping us to legally stay here after the 90-day limit is over via a residency permit.

After that, we traveled by train to Brasov. Melissa Pflug, the missionary care coordinator for the Eurasia region (who we would be floundering without!) met us at the train station and drove us to our new home. She also very kindly stocked our fridge and made sure we had everything we would need to survive our first few days.

Then illness hit! Ella was struck by an awful flu-like illness and Ben became similarly infected not long after. The illness debilitated each of us for about a week, and so we are only just recovering. Our exploration and settling in has been on pause due to the illness, but we are excited to jump into it now that we are both feeling better.

Everything Is New Being in a new country is very exciting! Everything that we previously assumed about culture and living is very different here, and we are building our new routines and finding our new favorite places. Luckily for us, Romanian food is very delicious (at least what we got to try before we got sick)! The Christmas tree in the city center of Brasov. It is the brightest we've ever seen! We are also getting used to walking a lot more places, and it feels good to lead a less sedentary lifestyle and enjoy a more walkable community. It is strange to be without a car, but the driving here is a lot to get used to, so, we are also grateful that we do not have to navigate the roads yet.



SERVING THE LORD IN THE

Dominican Republic (DR)

NEWS FROM STAN & DANA STIGDON



Fall 2025



Praise & Prayers

• Praise:

- Dana's mom had a successful pacemaker surgery and was able to visit us in the Dominican Republic.
- Healthy granddaughter born in late September.
- An abundance of short term teams to serve in the Dominican Republic next year!

• Prayers:

- Our son Tommy will be having Spinal fusion surgery on December 1st.
- For Stan and Dana as they are separated while Dana cares for Tommy.
- Smooth transitions for Pastor Anderson (Panama) and Makia Adler (Belize) joining LAC to serve as missionaries.
- Fellow missionary Robin fighting breast cancer.



There are many mission service opportunities open to all, both short-term and career. Check out the current list at lcms.org/service.

FORO season is wrapping up! I supported the DR FORO in September and Stan is connected to all of them throughout the region. It's one way to celebrate the arrival of spring and fall, especially since we only have hot/humid and warm/wet as our seasons. We enjoy both seasons, but we especially cherish the people here. They're content, happy, and always ready to lend a hand, as they did with our first flat tire on a major street with cars zipping past. Plus, they're open to hearing the truth in God's word. When we share the clear Gospel, most people are eager to learn more about God's unconditional love. Your support makes this possible.



Eyeglass Clinic

I hosted a MOST Ministries team who provided an eyeglass clinic at a local congregation, Pueblo Nuevo, and its mission outpost, Cien Fuegos. (Yes, you read that right, church plants are starting church plants!) 573 people were reached with the gospel message, eye health information, an eye exam, and 784 glasses were distributed. This not only physically blessed the people of the community, but also exposed them to the church and the clear gospel. This generated enough contacts and interest that the mission in Cien Fuegos is now celebrating the Divine Service weekly.

A View from the Regional Business Managers Desk

What exactly is a FORO? It's a collaborative effort between LCMS Districts, Congregations, Individuals, RSOs, and the LWML, along with local communities, to organize programs and budgets that support spreading the gospel, planting Lutheran churches, and showing mercy. Throughout the region, we have 13 FOROs supporting 42 church plants. We hold planning meetings in the Spring and Fall. If you're interested in experiencing missionaries working with the local people and learning about FOROs consider "shadowing a FORO." The DR is one of the easiest to shadow, but Belize, Chile, Peru, Panama, and Puerto Rico are also great options. Feel free to reach out to me to learn more.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Stan & Dana. Make checks payable to LCMS at:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034
On the memo line include
Stigdon-Dominican Republic
or call a donor care
representative: 888-930-4438.

Local mailing address
(for cards or letters only):
Stan & Dana Stigdon
Apartado 1356
Santiago de los Caballeros
51000 Dominican Republic



QR code to switch to newsletter by email + access to photo album