1. Plant, sustain and revitalize Lutheran churches.

2. Support and expand theological education through seminaries.

3. Perform Human Care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministry.

4. Collaborate with the Synod’s members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness.

5. Nurture pastors, missionaries and professional workers to promote spiritual, emotional and physical well-being.

6. Enhance elementary and secondary education and youth ministry.

7. Strengthen and support the Lutheran family in living out God’s design.
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Represent a partnership with the Lutheran Church of Nigeria
Pastoral support and church planting in Kingston and outlying areas
Leadership and vision for men’s and children’s ministries
Jamaica’s African underpinnings are undeniable. The decision to partner with the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN), then, in calling the Rev. Obot Ite to Jamaica as a church planting pastor, was logical and has not disappointed.

The LCN is a product of LCMS Missionary efforts dating back to 1936. Ite grew up with a missionary pastor and now has the honor of being the LCMS’s longest-serving Alliance Missionary. He arrived in Jamaica in October 2007 and took the reins of St. Andrew Lutheran Church whilst adapting to the Caribbean and performing community reconnaissance that bore fruit in what became Faith Lutheran Church.

Ite now pastors both congregations in addition to shepherding two preaching stations. Alongside Word and Sacrament, he aims to empower lay leaders, expand men’s ministry, and establish the church’s mercy arm. He skillfully puts his educational and experiential background to use as chaplain of Parade Gardens Lutheran School.

Ite’s family consists of wife Abasifreke (“Abas”) and their exuberant, school-aged daughter Goodness. Abas is a pillar despite ongoing health challenges, and Goodness’s shy, toothy smile is contagious.

Support Missionary Obot Ite - Project ID: JM0001-66303

Checks should be made out to: LCMS    Memo line: JM0001-66303

Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/missionary-obot-ite
ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR SERGIO MAITA

- Pastoral support for the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM)
- Spearheads authentic community outreach initiatives
- Delights in God’s gathering people from different places together in His name
The apostle Paul became “all things to all people, that by all means I might save some,” (1 Corinthians 9:22). Likewise, Rev. Sergio Maita’s humility and evangelistic spirit shine in that he’s been known to mingle with dozens of spandex-clad Zumba-dancers…all in the name of making community contacts.

In 2015, Maita, a native Venezuelan, accepted a call from the Venezuelan Lutheran Church as an Alliance missionary to the Dominican Republic, where he thrives as a church planter in its bustling capital, Santo Domingo. The public park across the street from Iglesia Luterana Pan de Vida, a house church in the Ozama neighborhood, hosts a faithful Zumba group; among it are some of Pan de Vida’s first confirmands. Maita’s heritage helps him reach out with compassion to Ozama’s Venezuelan immigrant community, and his deep catechetical understanding infuses Pan de Vida’s many children’s ministries – an after-school program, music classes, and neighborhood public school visits – with Gospel truth.

Maita; his wife Yoxandris, a dentist by profession; and their growing family share an 8th floor apartment overlooking a community rife with challenges, yet one where Christ is truly present.
Alliance Missionary Pastor Sergio Fritzler

- Pastoral support for the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM)
- Provost of Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center
- Enriches colleagues, students, and members with his gifts and experiences
Rev. Sergio Fritzler brings more than German punctuality and a knack for the accordion to the Dominican Republic from his Argentine homeland. The native Spanish speaking Alliance Missionary draws on years of experience to perform double duty as a church planter and member of the faculty at Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center (CMSCR).

Fritzler preaches, teaches, administers the Sacraments, and supervises seminary field workers at Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios in Licey al Medio alongside Dominican national Rev. Yban Navarro. Since Navarro’s September 2019 ordination, Fritzler’s focus has shifted outward: evangelistic visits and assessing the church planting potential of nearby communities.

At CMSCR, Fritzler’s professorial course load is over and above his role as provost: overseeing the affairs of both residential students and, in partnership with Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN, where he is on staff, distance students throughout the region studying online.

The aroma of grilling meat frequently wafts from the Fritzler home, which he shares with his church youth group sweetheart, Lilian, a nurse; sons Enzo and Martín; and dog Honey.
ALLIANCE MISSIONARY PASTOR WALTERSON SIEWERT

- Highlights the advantages of providing native pastors from sister church bodies
- Pastoral support for two congregations and a mercy house in Lima
- Embracing the joys and challenges of urban ministry
Rev. Walterson Junior Siewert Lang joined the Peru church planting team as an Alliance missionary in 2019. A native Paraguayan, he adds not only multicultural flair but also invaluable church planting experience, a plus for his young colleagues; he’s also trilingual. Siewert was raised by Brazilian-born parents in a Portuguese-speaking household, learned Spanish in school, and polished his English earning an M.A. at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay called Siewert, its first foreign missionary, to concentrate on the congregation in Lima’s highly populous Los Olivos district.

Siewert’s ever-present smile and warm personality make him a natural evangelist; membership is burgeoning under his leadership. As he settles into his role and lends occasional support to the church and mercy house in La Victoria, shining Christ’s light in one of Latin America’s largest cities promises to be demanding yet exhilarating.

Siewert married Peruvian national Estefania in 2017; daughter Isabella has dual citizenship. Consequently, Peru is already home, in a sense, for the Siewerts. They anticipate, Lord willing, an extended ministry tenure while raising their family with relatives nearby.

Support Alliance Missionary for Peru - Project ID: PE0016-65052

Checks should be made out to: LCMS Memo line: PE0016-65052

Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: erin.mackenzie@lcms.org
Belize Mission

- Multi-point ministry with its hub in the centrally located capital
- Reaching children through engaging, Gospel-based activities
- Blessed and challenged by a diverse, multilingual backdrop
When God opened a door for the LCMS to begin working in Belize, He opened the back door. Short-term teams in the remote village of Seine Bight ignited a desire for a permanent presence; OIM called Belize’s first full-time missionary in 2016.

A ministry hub closer to the centrally located capital city of Belmopan only expands the work of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy, largely among children. Ministry in Seine Bight marches on through the country’s only Lutheran congregation with a physical worship space, Christ Lutheran. In Belmopan and surrounding areas, children look forward to weekly VBS-style kids’ clubs, conducted in English. On paper, Belize is an Anglophone nation, but pockets of Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna, Belizean Creole, and even German explain the need for bilingual ministry workers and LCMS-sanctioned ESL classes. Occasional Christian radio spots further the dissemination of the Good News.

The potential for ongoing short-term team involvement is significant, and partnerships - in-country, with pastors in neighboring Mexico, and stateside - will facilitate sowing additional congregations, sustaining a fledgling school, and forming national pastors.

Support the Belize FORO - Project ID: BZ0001-65032
Checks should be made out to: LCMS Memo line: BZ0001-65032
Mail to: The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Mission Advancement P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/belize-foro
**MERCY HOUSE: CASTILLO FUERTE**

- Embraces some of Lima’s most vulnerable little ones with Christ’s love
- Nurtures all aspects of child development
- Starting point for outreach to parents and families
Stray cats laze on the stairs of Lima’s unremarkable “Mighty Fortress,” abuzz with the sound of sewing machines from the adjacent garment factory. Nevertheless, Castillo Fuerte is a stronghold for some of Lima’s most vulnerable little ones.

Factories like the one that abuts the LCMS-run mercy center employ many in the La Victoria district, leaving droves of children solo after school; Castillo Fuerte opens its doors – and Christ’s arms – to them. Each weekday afternoon, all ages crowd around a string of folding tables for a hot meal, family style. Devoted teachers create a stable environment for academic, emotional, social, and spiritual growth, incorporating extracurriculars like art and music whenever possible. Good behavior is rewarded with much-anticipated outings to a neighborhood park for volleyball or Frisbee.

Twice weekly chapel services reinforce biblical truths and equip children for active participation in Divine Services at the church of which they’re the charter members. By God’s grace, many have been baptized, and if Baptism and confirmation tallies are any indication, the Holy Spirit continues stirring in the hearts of their parents and families.

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**    Memo line: **PE0002-65605**

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Give online at [www.lcms.org/givenow/peru-mercy](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/peru-mercy)
CAYMAN ISLANDS MISSION

- Supporting the ministry of Safe Harbor Lutheran Church
- Reaching expats who live and work far from their home countries
- Bringing the Word to those vacationing on the island
The Cayman Islands conjures images of gleaming yachts and offshore bank accounts. The affluent British overseas territory is indeed known for its financial and tourism sectors, and it was vacationing Lutherans that championed sowing an LCMS congregation on Grand Cayman in the early 2000s. Their successors join economically and racially diverse native islanders in a common need for the Gospel.

As such, Safe Harbour Lutheran Church lends a solid foundation to a community that is literally and spiritually built on the sand, offering shelter in the Word and assurance of Christ’s presence in the Sacraments. A core of international expatriate workers swells with snowbirds each winter, but members live out their faith year-round in service to those around them.

The beacon that is Safe Harbor will brighten as the Lord blesses it with stability in terms of facilities and personnel. US supporters can rally around Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy in the Caymans Islands, confident that many who hear of Christ from a humble community center folding chair will be grafted into His body and carry His message far afield.

Support the Cayman Islands Mission - Project ID: KY0001-65027

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**   Memo line: **KY0001-65027**

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Give online at [www.lcms.org/givenow/cayman](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/cayman)
CHILE MISSION

- Ever-widening geographical ministry scope
- Sowing Gospel seeds in the wake of repeated disasters
- Clear correlation between mercy efforts and church growth
LCMS involvement in Chile developed slowly. Work began in the 1960’s but was concentrated in the port city of Valparaiso. It wasn’t until the late 1990’s when disaster response efforts, augmented by parallel efforts by the Lutheran Church of Argentina, ramped up, and helped extend the reach of the Gospel.

Chile is one of the longest countries in the world. Its terrain ranges from the world’s driest desert in the north to glacial archipelagos in the south and is susceptible to weather phenomena that are every bit as varied. Many Chileans bear heartbreaking memories of wildfires, earthquakes, and tsunamis. These very disasters, though, have paved the way for the work of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy. Disaster response and church planting go hand in hand, and the number of Chilean congregations has grown proportionally, doubling in short order after decades of stagnation.

Praise God for faithful supporters that place value on caring for the body of Christ in the wake of loss and tragedy and encourages the sowing of more and more communities of believers that will do likewise.

Support the Chile Mission - Project ID: CL0001-65301

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**  Memo line: **CL0001-65301**

Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
DEACONESS FORMATION

- Over 140 students in 5 countries
- Students learn to harmonize their efforts with the pastoral ministry
- Practical fieldwork complements classroom studies
Twenty-five ladies from five countries gathered for Latin America & the Caribbean’s pilot deaconess intensive in 2016. Afterward, they needed little urging to promote Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center’s (CMSCR) diaconal formation program, and the number of women preparing to follow in the footsteps of Priscilla, Phoebe, and others has swelled to over 100.

Effective, well-rounded ministry sees pastors and deaconesses working in harmony. Deaconesses care for members and engage in community outreach, leveraging acts of mercy to point to the Word fitly spoken and the Sacraments rightly administered by pastors. This symbiotic paradigm underscores Witness and Mercy as parts of a triad whose capstone is Life Together. From disability ministry in the Dominican Republic to a soup kitchen in Mexico to teaching Sunday school in Guatemala, examples of deaconess students tending to the whole person abound.

Deaconess formation will intertwine itself ever more inextricably with pastoral formation as CMSCR matures. An online platform is balanced by in-country intensives and mentoring relationships to foster continuation and expansion; to God be the glory for these selfless Kingdom servants: past, present, and future.

Support Deaconess Formation - Project ID: LM0006-65011

Checks should be made out to: LCMS    Memo line: LM0006-65011

Mail to: The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION

- Showing mercy within and outside the household of faith
- Planting Lutheran churches in diverse communities in the two largest cities
- Lutheran education from preschool to seminary
Mercy work, the genesis of the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM), remains a cornerstone of its multifaceted strategy. And yet, growth is evident in a robust community of North American and Alliance missionaries that joins forces with national workers.

Diverse church plants in the country's two largest cities are angling toward self-sufficiency as they identify leaders within, reach out to immigrant communities, and sow daughter preaching stations. One church plant sits adjacent to the DRLM's group home for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In a striking depiction of Christ's mercy flowing through His body, the congregation wholeheartedly welcomes them into its midst. Two Lutheran schools prized for providing a quality Christian education round out the DRLM, although its emphasis on lifelong faith formation is underscored by how it embraces Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center (CMSCR). The regional impact of CMSCR's multinational student body permeates the DRLM churches, group home, schools, and missionary community.

The DRLM's circle of US-based supporting entities widens as intentional mission education engages contributors, short-term teams, and guests in the task of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy.
Good Shepherd Lutheran Homes

- Affirming the God-given value of marginalized individuals
- Provoking institutional change for people with disabilities
- Encouraging holistic, Christlike care for all
In fall 2005, two missionaries arrived in Santiago, Dominican Republic, one contact name in hand. Their aim: plant Lutheran churches inclusive of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), a grassroots campaign resulting in the incorporation of an NGO, Hogares Luteranos el Buen Pastor (HLBP), in 2009.

HLBP models care for people with IDD, provokes institutional change, and acts as the mercy arm of the Church. Since 2011, six orphaned youth with IDD have received individualized attention at a group home adjacent to La Iglesia Luterana en Palmar in Palmar Arriba. This example has spurred three government facilities for hundreds of abandoned adults with IDD to take baby steps toward affirming every human being’s God-given value. Ongoing staff training and spiritual care uphold this notion.

And lastly, the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission’s congregations have become training grounds for loving the least of these, most notably through Amigos de Jesús, an outreach to families touched by IDD. In fact, perhaps the most sweeping change brought about by HLBP has been in the hearts of members: learning to care for others in body and soul.

Support HLBP - Project ID: DR0001-65019

Checks should be made out to: LCMS  Memo line: DR0001-65019

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Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/palmar-arriba-hlbp
HONDURAS MISSION

- Supporting church plants near the capital and southern coast
- Fostering a pastor-deacon duo’s outreach focus
- Seeking growth and harmony amongst US partners
Five international church bodies figure into the story of LCMS missions in Honduras: Honduras itself, neighboring Nicaragua and Guatemala, the Lutheran Church Canada (LCC), and the LCMS, which became the primary stakeholder in 2018 when the LCC elected to focus on another mission field.

In La Paz, a Nicaraguan missionary pastor hosts a community of believers in his garage and serves as chaplain at an orphanage. He also travels 90 kilometers every other week to bring Word and Sacrament to a church plant in national capital Tegucigalpa’s twin city, Comayagüela. There, a Honduran deacon leads weekly Christian education classes, equipping the congregation to be evangelists and teachers in their own community. This dynamic duo of missionary pastor and deacon looks to expand the work toward the Pacific coast, where the Church already owns property in Choluteca.

The future of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy in Honduras is contingent upon its US partner base. The LCMS presence in the country will solidify as congregations with disparate interests seek overlap, avoid duplication, and nurture accountability.

Support the Honduras Mission - Project ID: HN0001-65006

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**   Memo line: **HN0001-65006**

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St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: herb.burch@lcms.org
JAMAICA MISSION

• Bringing Word and Sacrament to Kingston and outlying areas
• Renovating a multipurpose facility into a mercy ministry headquarters
• Using Christian education as a bridge into the community
The Lutheran Hour Ministries radio contacts in the 1990s helped kickstart LCMS efforts in Jamaica, which have since transitioned from North American missionaries to the capable hands of Alliance Missionary Rev. Obot Ite.

 Worlds away from glistening resort meccas, two church plants thrive in the capital, Kingston. Members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church gather at the conveniently situated Kingston Ministry Centre. The facility doubles as office space, volunteer lodging, and the headquarters of Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica (LMJ), the LCMS’s umbrella NGO.

 Faith Lutheran Church’s rented facility, increasingly filled with families from nearby Parade Gardens Lutheran School, is a beacon in the city’s downtown core. LMJ rescued the school from certain closure in 2019, sparking a robust Christian education campaign that will define the future of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy. Jamaica’s developing FORO partnership circle hopes to provide PGLS its own building.

 LMJ also encompasses preaching points in the rural community of Bois Content, and in Westmoreland Parish, both west of Kingston.

 By God’s grace, the faithful there will one day join His family through Holy Baptism.

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**Support the Jamaica Mission - Project ID: JM0003-66302**

Checks should be made out to: **LCMS**  Memo line: **JM0003-66302**

Mail to: The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Mission Advancement  P.O. Box 66861  St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: charles.stonge@lcms.org
LUTHER ACADEMY

- Brings pastors together for study and fellowship
- Conference topics cater to unique situational contexts
- Enhanced preaching equals trickle-down benefits for local members
From a lone seminar in Chile in 2007 to a series of events in Argentina in 2012 to a region-wide slate of conferences, Luther Academy has morphed to fit the changing needs of its audience while retaining its original intent: educate, and as a result, unify, the Latin American pastorate. Headed by the Argentinian-born Rev. Carlos Schumann, it is by Latinos, for Latinos.

Luther Academy levels a playing field in which seminary formation varies. Scholarships bring pastors together for continuing education and to bond with brothers in the ministry. Customization is key. Church leaders in different contexts wrestle with distinct facets of the Scriptures and Confessions, so each conference is catered to an individual church planting team’s shortcomings. In short, Luther Academy meets pastors where they are. Topics notwithstanding, the hope is that pastors’ takeaways would spill over into their pulpits.

Contributors who stand with the LCMS Office of International Mission in support of Luther Academy help align the Church’s confession, generate synergy, and ensure that every pastor’s care for his flock mirrors the Good Shepherd’s care for His.

Support Luther Academy - Project ID: LM0002-65013

Checks should be made out to: LCMS    Memo line: LM0002-65013

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Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/luther-academy
• Reaches leaders and laity in LCMS missions and partner churches region-wide
• Growing repertoire of conference topics thanks to RSO partnerships
• Empowers trainees to become trainers
Luke 6:36 entreats, “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” It’s part of LAC’s trifecta: Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy. The Mercy Center, an institute of Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center (CMSCR) in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic, leads the charge.

Like CMSCR, the Mercy Center transcends borders. Since 2017, it has been equipping leaders and laity in LCMS missions and partner churches to be the hands, feet, and voice of the Church through the unique contexts of their local congregations. Each May, the Mercy Center aims to partner with an LCMS Recognized Service Organization in debuting a new course that will join standbys like evangelism, reconciliation, life issues, and disaster response, with the Mercy Center facilitating the translation of printed course materials. Special requests, such as first aid or AED usage, round out the Mercy Center arsenal.

With each workshop held, more people learn who the Church is and what she does. Moreover, trainees become trainers: subject matter experts eager to impart knowledge and resources that propel their church bodies ever closer to self-sustainability.

Support the Mercy Center - Project: LM0011-65024

Checks should be made out to: LCMS       Memo line: LM0011-65024
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         St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: cheryl.naumann@lcms.org
MEXICO MISSION

- Lays the groundwork for church plants while sustaining and revitalizing existing congregations
- Collaborative focus on theological education
- Uniquely positioned for engagement with US constituents
The fruit of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy in Mexico, dating back to 1940, is cause to celebrate God’s faithfulness. In 1968, the Lutheran Synod of Mexico (LSM) entered altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS; the relationship has only strengthened, particularly since 2013.

Mexico City’s Martin Luther Institute, a result of said relationship, collaborates with North American missionaries, Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center in the Dominican Republic, and Luther Academy, a professional development initiative for pastors, on pastoral and diaconal formation. As a result, the Mexican pastorate, which formerly numbered three men, has multiplied and turned its attention toward church revitalization and sowing new congregations. A disaster response grant widened the scope of LCMS involvement in Mexico following a major earthquake; subsequent grants have further aided the Church in holistically caring for members.

Mexico’s proximity to – and shared border with – the United States positions it uniquely. Involvement from US partners is crucial, given countless connections in the borderland region and a constant exchange of people, ideas, and resources. Thanks be to God for past, present, and future growth!
NEW SEMINARY SUPPORT

- Forming pastors and deaconesses to collaborate effectively
- Practical, church planting emphasis
- Frequent capital improvements to holistically care for students
The opening of Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center (CMSCR) in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic, coincided with 2017’s churchwide Reformation 500 fanfare. CMSCR prides itself on its practical, church planting emphasis. Pastoral graduates are sent out as shepherds, teachers, and evangelists, with a robust appreciation for graduates of CMSCR’s largest program – deaconess formation. Deaconess graduates understand and execute their complementary vocation by demonstrating mercy through acts of service.

A seminary in the Caribbean was a longtime aspiration. Upon completion of its 3rd floor facility, furnishings began populating empty classrooms. Thanks to technological upgrades, professors in the region’s furthest reaches can teach virtually. Solar panels help ensure consistent power and internet, and students can not only hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Word, but hold it in their hands in a sizeable theological library.

As CMSCR’s reputation in the international sphere soars, opportunities for keeping pace through improvements to better address the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of students will be frequent. The mighty acts God will do through them are only a matter of time!

New Seminary Support - Project ID: LM0012-65211

Checks should be made out to: LCMS Memo line: LM0012-65211

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Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/seminary-support
PANAMA MISSION

- Lays the groundwork for church plants while sustaining and revitalizing existing congregations
- Committed to forming future church workers
- US partners form part of an integral support structure
The LCMS’s work in Panama began by serving military personnel during the Canal Zone era, as early as 1941. From there, the ministry expanded to other areas and led to the eventual formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Panama (IELPA).

Together, the LCMS and the IELPA maintain their commitment to Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy, especially in identifying prospective church workers and providing for pastoral and diaconal formation. The diaconal program has gained a particular foothold; deaconess students eagerly serve their communities, assisting pastors in teaching the faith and tending to their neighbors in body and soul through acts of mercy and spiritual care. Panama’s dynamic chapter of Lutheran Hour Ministries is a vital partner in ministry.

Panama is known as the “Crossroads of the World” thanks to its celebrated canal, and as such, the harvest is ripe with a kaleidoscope of classes and nationalities. Thanks be to God for His faithfulness in raising up a support structure that positions the IELPA for forward momentum: workers, US partners, and short-term teams.

Support the Panama Mission - Project ID: PA0001-65804

Checks should be made out to: LCMS    Memo line: PA0001-65804

Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement
        P.O. Box 66861
        St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Contact: arthur.rickman@lcms.org
PERU MISSION

- Supports outreach through two congregations
- Multicultural ministry team works together with local leaders and US partners
- Ample opportunity for expansion in a city of more than 10 million
LCMS involvement in Peru began with flood relief in 1997. Ten years later, an 8.0 magnitude earthquake reinvigorated the LCMS’s disaster response efforts and opened the door to something more.

La Misión Luterana del Perú became the precursor to a Peruvian-led national church body in 2010 and received NGO status in 2016. It functions as the epicenter for evangelistic outreach activities and presently supports two church plants. The congregation in the northern suburb of Los Olivos is outgrowing its cozy worship space and boasts significant numbers of youth and Venezuelan immigrants. A second congregation grew out of Castillo Fuerte, a mercy center at the heart of Lima’s poverty-stricken La Victoria garment district. Here, children help connect their parents to the body of Christ.

A multicultural ministry team and a dedicated Peruvian staff are accountable to a partnership circle of US congregations and LCMS districts; hand-in-hand, they labor together to Spread the Gospel, Plant Lutheran Churches, and Show Mercy to the 10 million souls in Lima and beyond.

Support the Peru Mission - Project ID: PE0001-65611

Checks should be made out to: LCMS   Memo line: PE0001-65611

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        St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/peru-foro
PUERTO RICO MISSION

- Strengthening existing churches and planting new ones
- Using classes and workshops as opportunities for mercy and witness
- Sharing Christ’s love through two disaster response centers
LCMS efforts in Puerto Rico began with the work of the Ohio District in the early 1990s. The commonwealth is international in flavor yet part of the US, Latino yet with a strong Anglo dynamic, Roman Catholic yet with a vocal Protestant minority, and wealthy by Caribbean standards yet impoverished compared to all 50 states.

Its two Lutheran congregations, then, have their work of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy cut out for them. Príncipe de Paz Lutheran Church in Mayaguez, Fuente de Vida Lutheran Church in Ponce, and their respective mercy houses have found music, English, nutrition, disaster preparedness, and even soap making to be effective in connecting their urban communities to the body of Christ. Members are spiritually nourished, yet rampant depression, anxiety, and loneliness, especially among the elderly, is not ignored and, should disaster strike again, the infrastructure for providing material aid can be quickly activated.

Committed FORO partners will be key in planting a 3rd congregation and raising up local leaders with a mind to establish an independent church body as distinctive as its island home.
Seminary scholarships

- Promotes wholehearted dedication to studies and fieldwork
- Empowers students’ sending church bodies
- Alleviates the economic pressures of residential student life
The Reformation 500 festivities of 2017 heralded the first academic year at Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center (CMSCR) in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic, an institution noted for its curriculum’s practical, church-planting emphasis.

Recognizing the rigorous coursework and fieldwork that their studies entail, the Office of International Mission supports the men furthering their theological education at CMSCR. Congregations, individuals, and FORO partnership circles can contribute to a pool that funnels scholarship awards through the home church bodies of most residential students. In selecting recipients, who are obligated to fulfill work-study hours each semester, CMSCR’s faculty prioritizes the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission, then LCMS mission fields, then LCMS partner church bodies, then other candidates.

For men who have, oftentimes, left everything familiar for the sake of the holy ministry, resting in the knowledge that on-ground expenses are provided for is an enormous relief. The award amount doubles for married students, allowing for accompanying wives and children. Single or married, scholarship students can dedicate themselves fully to becoming shepherds, evangelists, and teachers.

Support Latin America Seminary - Project ID: LM0009-65044

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Give online at [www.lcms.org/givenow/latin-america-seminary](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/latin-america-seminary)
SEMINARY SYMPOSIUM

- Annual opportunity to renew bonds amongst an international brotherhood of believers
- Echoes the wide-ranging impact of CMSCR’s core function
- Themed keynotes and panel discussions provide a backdrop for fellowship
Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center (CMSCR) in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic boasts a curriculum grounded in practical field experience that supplements the requisite doctrinal foundation. The ripples of what God will do through its graduates reach far beyond classrooms overlooking palm tree covered mountains and occasionally serenaded by neighbors’ merengue; CMSCR’s sweeping influence is perhaps most evident in the one-of-a-kind, Spanish language theological symposium that is a cornerstone of every academic calendar.

Each spring, sister Lutheran church body presidents and theological education representatives from the region’s farthest reaches join students, faculty, and missionaries in Palmar Arriba. Worship, themed keynote addresses, and panel discussions lend structure to an agenda designed to foment fellowship amongst attendees. For those that represent small, isolated church bodies, communion with an international brotherhood of believers is a priceless gift.

The ties between these leaders and innovators will only strengthen as CMSCR, aided by a US contributor base, subsidizes the logistics of repeating the event annually. Friends new and old sustain one another by prayer and mutual encouragement until the day when the Word unites them once more.

Support Latin America Seminary - Project ID: LM0013-
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Mail to: The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Mission Advancement P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/latin-america-seminary
Widespread members unite around a common Lutheran confession

Capitalizing on technology as an outreach and ministry tool

Focus on developing a native Spanish pastorate
Missionary pastors from the LCMS’s sister church body in Argentina brought Luther’s radical ideas to historically Roman Catholic Spain in 2000. In 2015 the LCMS began building upon their solid foundation, sending two North American missionary pastors.

Together they, Spanish pastors, and members ardently seek after the lost and tend to a flock scattered in more than two dozen cities, only a fraction of which have an established congregation or church plant. Being road warriors comes with the territory. God’s gift of technology is also a critical means of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy: the Spanish church has long employed online worship services, Bible studies, catechesis, and meetings as part of its strategy.

The Lord is multiplying these and other efforts with geographical, numerical, and spiritual growth, and a fledgling US partner base lends critical resources. Developing stewardship among members and partners alike is of particular interest moving forward, as are providing ongoing theological education for current pastors, identifying and forming future pastors, keeping technological capabilities current, and upgrading worship facilities.

Support the Spain FORO - Project ID: ES0001-65031

Checks should be made out to: LCMS    Memo line: ES0001-65031
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Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/spain-foro
URUGUAY MISSION

• Standing steadfast in South America’s most atheistic nation
• Coupling Word and Sacrament with community engagement
• Reinforcing Christian education for 1000+ schoolchildren
Nestled on the Atlantic coast just south of Brazil is South America’s most atheistic nation: Uruguay. Given that it is no longer heavily Roman Catholic, Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy instead take place against the backdrop of a populace that largely believes there is no God.

LCMS efforts among German and Slovenian immigrants in the 1930s have given way to a mix of urban, rural, and school ministry. Since 2015, LCMS missionaries have been collaborating with members in coupling Word and Sacrament ministry with activities like English and sewing classes to get staunch unbelievers through the door of a congregation in downtown Montevideo. The student population of nearby Colegio San Pablo, though, dwarfs church membership. All grade levels, nursery school through high school, benefit from a chaplain and receive Christian formation instruction. Outreach efforts outside the capital city vary but often involve partnering with Lutheran Hour Ministries.

US partners and connections within the neighboring Lutheran Church of Brazil will be integral as the LCMS seeks to reinforce Montevideo as its mission hub with spokes reaching each of Uruguay’s 20 departments.

Support the Uruguay Mission - Project ID: UY0001-66001

Checks should be made out to: LCMS Memo line: UY0001-66001

Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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VDMA - TRANSLATION TEAM

- Equips the Latin American pastorate with Lutheran resources in their heart language
- Uses digital delivery to overcome logistical challenges
- Enables workers to fulfill their vocations more effectively
Four letters - VDMA, a Latin acronym which translates “The Word of the Lord endures forever” - united Reformation-era Lutherans in solidarity against their adversaries. Five centuries later, the same four letters unite a very different group of Lutherans: pastors and seminary students across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Imagine shepherding a flock or holding a national church leadership position with a library of five theological books. Such was the predicament of the Latin American pastorate until the 2013 dawn of VDMA, a multifaceted initiative that identifies, translates, edits, and electronically distributes needed theological materials. The toolkit available to these steadfast workers continues expanding, as not only books (28 in the first six years) but magazines, daily devotions, educational curricula, disaster response materials, and articles are disseminated with ease and immediacy.

It bears mentioning that VDMA aligns with each of the LCMS’s seven mission priorities, but its enduring value is found most in grateful feedback from beneficiaries, enabled to fulfill their vocations in accordance with the Scriptures and the Lutheran confessions - now at their fingertips in their heart language - like never before.

Support Translation Team - Project ID: LM0004-65048

Checks should be made out to: LCMS   Memo line: LM0004-65048

Mail to: The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Mission Advancement
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Give online at www.lcms.org/givenow/translation-team
VENEZUELA MISSION

- Supports ongoing theological education in Venezuela
- Protects historic investments in the Venezuelan Church
The Venezuelan Lutheran Church faces many challenges due to that country’s continued socio-political crisis. For the fifteen Lutheran pastors in Venezuela who serve their countrymen, life is “complicated.” Millions have migrated to other Latin countries, including many well-educated and professional Lutherans. The church remains as a bulwark to encourage those who remain and struggle to feed, clothe, educate and care for their families. They continue to work to form new pastors, deaconesses, teachers and church leaders through their Bible institute, Juan de Frias, in cooperation with Concordia Seminary the Reformer in Dominican Republic.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care working with the LCMS Office of International Missions assists in the following ways:

- The Lutheran Church of Chile works to secure the most needed medicines and transport them to the local congregations in Venezuela. A grant in the amount of $40,000 from LCMS World Relief and Human Care is the funding source for this crucial and life preserving support. That grant provides for four shipments per year, with a goal of benefiting 500 Venezuelans. The most recent shipment actually brought medicines to 630 Venezuelans.

- Additional funds are made available to our OIM nurses, who work to secure medicines for church workers and members, which are not included in the Lutheran Church of Chile program.

- Lutheran pastors receive economic assistance to enable them to minister full time to their flocks.

- Venezuelan ex patriots in Chile, Perú, Dominican Republic and Spain have received help through local Lutheran mercy houses funded by OIM. These mercy houses reach out with Christ’s mercy arm, to refugees in need of assistance.

The Venezuela Lutheran Church contributes to the efforts of the Latin American and Caribbean Region and presently provides three missionary pastors serving in Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Spain. They provide valuable service to the Kingdom of God and to the overall mission in the LAC region, as they work to share the Gospel, plant Lutheran Churches, and show mercy to all. We thank the Lord for their service.

Support the Venezuela Mission - Project ID: VE0004-66101

Checks should be made out to: LCMS Memo line: VE0004-66101

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