

Ordination of the First Dominican Lutheran Pastor – Pastor Willy Gaspar! • Pastor Walter Ries Jr.



Ordination and
Installation of
Pastor Willy Gaspar

On Sunday March 13th, 250 people converged on the mission of Las Americas for the ordination of our first Dominican Lutheran pastor, Willy Gaspar. The divine service began with a procession, following the cross, to the site of the future church building, marked out with a gravel floor and covered over with two rented tents, to protect from the hot morning sun. Reverend Sergio Fritzler, the director of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Buenos Aires, preached on Matthew 28:18-20 and Pastor Ted Krey ordained Willy Gaspar. Twenty-one pastors from Argentina, Brazil, Haiti, United States and Canada were present for the laying on of hands. At the conclusion of the divine service, representatives from our five mission sites presented Pastor Gaspar with gifts. We give thanks to our dear Heavenly Father for raising up a shepherd of the flock to bring His people the good news of Jesus Christ and His gifts through the Word and the Sacraments.

Special news from the mission field:

- First volunteer team begins church construction in Las Americas
- Second container arrives from Wisconsin
- Group Home Dedication Service held
- Students begin online course with Lutheran seminary in Argentina
- Breakfast program begins at Concordia Lutheran School in Palmar Arriba



Concordia Lutheran School News • Pastor Ted Krey

With the arrival of our second container from Wisconsin, we received enough plates, bowls, and utensils to stock our school kitchen. A stove and fridge are now in place and shelves are being installed to secure foodstuffs and kitchenware. On March 28th we officially lit the burners and served breakfast to our children for the first time. With the most recent visit of the delegation from St. Michael's Lutheran church we were gifted the Rosetta Stone to teach English using our computer laboratory. Our English volunteer, Ruth Pollex, will be employing this as yet another tool to teach English to the children. We are also considering beginning a night or evening weekend class for adults, thus introducing them to the church as well.



Seminary Protocol Document • Pastor Ted Krey

In the divine service in which Willy Gaspar was ordained, a moment was taken to sign a protocol document between the Argentinian Lutheran church and the LCMS and her Dominican mission. Rev. Dr. Al Collver, Rev. Dr. David Birner, Rev. Sergio Fritzer and missionary pastors Ries and Krey all signed this document, bringing into agreement a commitment to found our own seminary by 2017 and immediately begin training our own men to be pastors in a four year cycle. This is to be done via internet, visiting Argentinian professors and missionary pastors. Classes for deacons and deaconesses will also be taught in this manner. This month, five men began their formal seminary training to become pastors, and three women began deaconess studies! We give thanks to our Lord for His faithfulness in raising up labourers for the harvest!

Welcome to Brian and Jeanette Keller! • Danelle L. Putnam

Brian and Jeanette Keller, our construction foreman and our volunteer supervisor, respectively, from Wisconsin have arrived! We are thrilled to have them here as they began this month to work with our first team from Oregon to build our sanctuary in Las Americas. The team worked hard all week long putting in the footings of the building, connecting electricity to the property and getting the four walls of the bathroom done! Three pastors were a part of this team and night time devotions were meaty and Christ-centred. We look forward to the next group coming the beginning of April from Spokane, Washington.

We give thanks for Brian and Jeanette being here with us. They arrive as veterans to the mission field, having built Lutheran churches in Panama some 10 years ago. We welcome their experience and give thanks to our Lord for these two servants who have brought their gifts to serve the Lord of the church and strengthen the body of Christ here in the Dominican. We look forward to our scheduled teams and any new ones who might want to come aid us in the construction!



Prayer Requests

- For newly ordained Pastor Willy Gaspar and for the church in Las Americas, Amigos de Cristo.
- For our new volunteer couple, Brian and Jeanette Keller, their work of managing the construction of the church in Las Americas, and for the second team of volunteers from Washington that is due to arrive at the end of the month.
- For the Group Home and the children living there – Junior, Moises, Francis, Randi, Estefani and Ramona.
- For the mission in Santiago as it plans to relocate its meeting place.
- For the newly operating breakfast program at Concordia School in Palmar Arriba, that it may be a blessing for the children and their studies.
- Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of the second container from Wisconsin.
- For Luis, Yban, Manuel, Pedro and John as they begin to study online with the Argentinian Seminary to become pastors, and also Mirta, Juliana and Danelle as they begin deaconess courses.
- For all missionaries serving in Latin America, especially the Eisold and Wall families as they transition to life in Peru and the Neuendorfs as they move to the Dominican Republic.
- For LCMS WR HC staff and Haitian Lutheran church as they together show mercy to those in need.



John playing guitar in Las Americas



Two confirmations in Palmar Arriba, March 30th



Beautiful family - both parents now confirmed, children all baptized, and worshipping together in Palmar Arriba!