



Thank you to all who came to our March Foro! What a joy to have everyone here to share about the work here and talk about future plans! Our time together began with our fellowship activities in both Ponce and Mayaguez. On Saturday we began our time in worship and a few presentations on strategic planning and future plans. The rest of the day was spent showing our guests the different areas of ministry on our campuses and meeting with church members. On a personal note, it was such a joy to hear church members share about their experiences at church and being apart of the family.

Below, church members from both Fuente de Vida and Principe de Paz gather during P de P's fellowship night. **To the right**, Concordia Nebraska served with us in March! Thank you for all of your help and care for the people here in Puerto Rico!



Prayers:

- New preaching station in San Juan
- Catechism classes.
- New and old visitors to church in Ponce.

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A note from LCMS Missionaries, James & Christel Neuendorf

New Church Plant in San Juan!

It is with great joy that we share the news of our fledgling church plant taking root in the city of San Juan, where a small group of faithful believers has begun to gather to worship our Lord and Savior.

It all began on a quiet Sunday morning after about an hour and a half drive, when ten of us, filled with anticipation and hope, huddled together in the cozy living room of a loving family's home. Folded tables and portable chairs became our makeshift sanctuary, and yet, despite the simplicity of our surroundings, the atmosphere was charged with the palpable presence of Christ among His people in Word and Sacrament.

"Peace be with you!" Christ spoke from our text again into a room filled with disciples.

"Take eat, this is my Body" He spoke and was among us according to His promise.

Tears of joy, singing, and laughter mixed with nervousness and that initial tension of a new group getting to know each other characterized the day.

As I prepare to travel again this week to be a part of the church plant, I'm reminded of the beautiful words found in 1 John 3:1-2 which will be read as our epistle: "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are."

For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."

The world may not yet know us, but we rest secure in the knowledge that we are indeed children of God, and that what is happening is more than what it looks like to the eye. Nobody can see us coming!

Each week, our little flock continues to gather, learning and growing in our faith. Confirmation classes are underway, as we delve deeper into the mysteries of our Lutheran heritage and the truth of God's Word. In the warmth of fellowship, we break bread, share our stories, and celebrate the love that binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ. The whole group is excited and eager to share their faith with the whole island, and it is a joy to be involved in serving them, even as the ministry in Ponce begins to gain even more traction.

As we approach the day of Pentecost, we eagerly anticipate the confirmation of our newest members and the joyous celebration of a baptism. We invite you to join us in prayer, as we embark on this exciting journey together. May the Lord bless and guide our humble beginnings, and may His love continue to fill our hearts, transforming us into the radiant image of our Savior. We are already what we will one day be revealed to be! Peace be with you!