

## missionaryMAC

News from Erin Mackenzie, serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic (DR) | [missionaryMAC.blogspot.com](http://missionaryMAC.blogspot.com)

Having wrapped up Luther's Small Catechism, my church recently embarked upon a new adult Bible class topic: the Lutheran liturgy. It's been educational even for this lifelong churchgoer. For instance, I learned that each Sunday in Lent bears a Latin name related to the first word of the appointed Introit.

**First** Sunday in Lent: Invocabit

**Second** Sunday in Lent:  
Reminiscere

**Third** Sunday in Lent: Oculi

**Fourth** Sunday in Lent: Laetare

**Fifth** Sunday in Lent: Judica

The final Sunday is, of course,  
Palm Sunday!



Area Facilitator Charles St-Onge teaching a pastoral formation module to Claudious (left) and Henry (center) in Kingston, Jamaica.

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please send an email to [erin.mackenzie@lcms.org](mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org).)

### Sing to the Lord a New Song

Or 600!

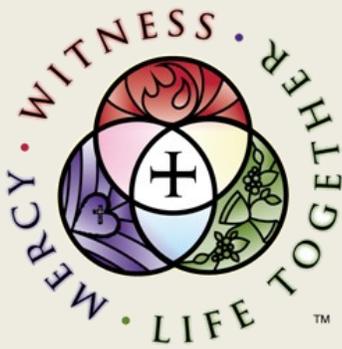
The first complete Spanish hymnal in more than 70 years is 60% final and could be in the hands of Spanish-speaking Lutherans by year end.

The dedicated leadership committee, made up of pastors and deaconesses from Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic, the US, and Panama, gathered in Santiago earlier this month to formulate a plan for bringing the decade-long undertaking to fruition. An experienced project manager was appointed to hold the committee accountable for having it ready to be printed (in Thailand!) by as early as November.

In addition to around 600 hymns, it'll contain four Divine Services, four offices, Luther's Small Catechism, and half of the Psalter. The committee's self-imposed page limit is 1,000, so it's going to be a hefty tome—all the more reason that a digital version is a critical piece of the distribution plan. The ability to deliver the hymnal electronically will allow it to be lumped into VDMA (see reverse!) in addition to being promulgated through Luther Academy's continuing education courses and adopted by Concordia the Reformer Seminary (CMSCR). Instrumental recordings of the liturgies and hymns are in the works to serve congregations that don't have a full complement of musicians as well as to facilitate the widespread incorporation of unfamiliar tunes into weekly use.

Bits and pieces of the content are already being field tested at CMSCR and at selected DRLM missions. My church, for instance, used Evening Prayer each Wednesday during Lent. I can't carry a tune in a bucket, but the lilting melody of the Magnificat has a way of getting stuck in even my head!





**Praises and Petitions**

1. Thanksgiving for Jesus' victory over sin, death, and Satan, without which my work and that of all missionaries would be in vain.
2. Thanksgiving for another year of God's grace and favor shown to the LCMS as our church body celebrates its 172nd birthday on April 26.
3. For the mission team in Puerto Rico as they search for a new building to serve as a worship facility/mercy center.
4. For all involved in the plans for next month's theological symposium, which will bring pastors and theological educators from across Latin America together in the DR.
5. For the CSL and CTSFW candidates preparing to receive assignments and calls at services in late April and early May.

**It's Fun to Learn About VDMA**

I arrived on the field in a T-shirt (covered by a pullover, because planes are freezing!) bearing the centuries old motto "VDMA," a Latin acronym meaning "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever." Although my apparel was 100% courtesy of CPH, the LCMS's 150-year old purveyor of the printed Word, those four letters have taken on newfound significance for me since joining LAC.

VDMA is a project that seeks to translate Lutheran theological materials into Spanish and distribute them via tablets to pastors and students in Latin America who would otherwise not have access to such a theological library due to the complexities and costs of acquiring printed versions. Over 200 have benefitted thus far. This is done through the magic of Whispercast, Amazon's method of delivering e-content in bulk to anyone with an associated email address.

I used to help place sales orders for VDMA titles; now I'm edified by the sermons and studies that my colleagues and friends prepare using them!



Top: Construction on the library at Concordia the Reformer Seminary begins!  
Bottom: One last group pic before driving the short-term team from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Tampa, FL, to the airport.



Grocery stores made it easy to prepare the Lenten treat *habichuelas con dulce* (sweet cream of beans) with pre-packaged kits!

**Quote of the Month!**  
 "I have in Christ all that I desperately want but cannot get from the work that I do."  
 –Matt Popovits, "Restful Work" (CHF New York podcast, 2016)

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  - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
  - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.

