

Mission Partners Meet • Pastor Ted Krey



Break-time during Mission Partner Meetings!

During the first weekend in March we were blessed to have our mission partners from South Wisconsin District, Bethesda, Lutheran World Relief and Human Care, and LCMS Mission join us for our bi-annual two day meeting.

One of the highlights was the approval to use remaining funds from our Concordia Publishing House VBS offerings for the purchase of a property in Licey and the building of

a church! We are thrilled that our mission in Licey will have a place of mercy to baptize, teach, preach and tell others of their sin, the need for repentance, and forgiveness found in Jesus! Some items which were approved to be explored are the founding of a deaconess school, a medical clinic, and the future plans of establishing a rehabilitation centre in Santiago to serve peoples with disabilities.

Lenten Service at Concordia School • Pastor Walter Ries Jr.

On Friday, March 2nd, our Concordia School children gathered for their Lenten service in which they recited Bible verses and hymns from memory to over 300 people. They sang 'Stricken Smitten and Afflicted', 'Christ the Life of all the Living' and two liturgical songs, 'Holy, Holy, Holy' and 'Lamb of God'. Six short meditations of Law and Gospel interspersed the service

allowing the assembled to meditate on the life of Christ flawlessly lived in love towards us and faithfulness to our Heavenly Father. The entire school body concluded the service by reciting from memory Isaiah 53:1-7, of the life of our Lord poured out in love on the cross on behalf of all humanity.



Lenten Service held outside the Lutheran Church and School in Palmar Arriba

Special news from the mission field:

- Two more volunteer groups help with school building and playground
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Homes participated in city-wide walk for disability awareness
- Lenten Service at Concordia School
- Preparations underway for Easter Sunday baptisms and confirmations
- Mission Partners meet in Santiago
- Brazilian and Argentinian representatives continue to partner with us in magnificent ways as well

Volunteer Groups Transform School • Pastor Ted Krey



At the beginning of March a volunteer group of 14 people from 5 congregations in the South Wisconsin District joined us to aid in the building of the playground of our Concordia School. On Sunday, they treated us to some good old fashioned fun as they invited the whole community of Palmar Arriba to join them for an afternoon of square dancing. Yep, square dancing in Spanish!! Then, Monday to Wednesday saw the group build and install four teeter totters and a huge concrete slab for volleyball and basketball. How they worked and how delighted our school children are words cannot tell, but sore bodies did and yet the delighted smiles of the children made up for it all! On Thursday, Pastor Walter Ries Jr. led the school and group in a dedication of the new play area.

Already plans are underway to use the playground for opportunities to have joint catechism classes and volleyball leagues for youth and men.

At the end of March, a volunteer group from Spokane, WA, came. Their work focused on painting the entire school and repairing the roof. Needless to say, the school looks absolutely amazing! We were very pleased to have several members of this team back as they were here last year as well. We give thanks to our Lord for the love of the volunteers, the Kellers and many back home who have made this possible.



Intensive Reformation History Course • Pastor Walter Ries Jr.



Seminarian John Fritz and Pastor Milton Hofstetter

We were privileged to have Pastor Milton Hofstetter from Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina, come and give a course on Reformation history to our seminarians during the last weekend of February. This is one of two courses that our men receive in person from the seminary professors in Argentina. Lively discussion was had by all and highlights of the course were the conversations on the theology of the cross and how our Lord speaks clearly and plainly to us even today through His Word. We give thanks to our Lord for the faithful teachings received from our sister church in Argentina and pray that our Lord would give our professors strength and love to continue to teach us here.