

Misericordia Activa

An Active Mercy

The love of Christ at work in the streets of Perú

News from Deaconess **Caitlin Worden** serving the Lord in **Lima, Peru**.



Deaconess Caitlin with Alba and Elvis at their wedding, with their daughter Kaory.

Meet Elvis and Alba

The return to Lima of our Seminarian Elvis and his wife Alba has brought much excitement and energy to the mission. They lived in Argentina for a year while Elvis studied at our sister seminary there. They returned to Peru in December and will be here until August when they go to the Dominican Republic to continue their studies in the new seminary of the Latin America and Caribbean Region. Elvis is currently working with us in Castillo Forte La Victoria as Site Director, and aiding the pastors in preaching and teaching responsibilities.

Since Alba has arrived back in Peru she has been a great friend to me and a huge help in motivating and organizing the women of the Peruvian Lutheran Church. Alba has organized the congregation and helped them to offer a week long summer VBS program. She and other members of the congregation were the principle teachers and the missionaries only helped to provide the bible stories and guidance in teaching. The program included eight adult church members and had 16 different kids there from the neighborhood. Alba also helped extensively in the planning of mission wide women's retreat. She has helped motivate the congregation in their giving for special projects. She is currently leading the congregation in planning for an Easter celebration. Praise the Lord for the example which she saw in our sister church in Argentina and the motivation of the Holy Spirit to help lead the young Peruvian church to a similar vibrant and active future.



Want to Care for your Missionaries? - WHAT CAN I DO?

1. **Pray**— pray constantly for the work of the Lord and his called workers.
2. **Encourage**—send cards, emails, whatsapp and facebook messages with prayers and hugs.
3. **Send a care package**— Little gifts and a taste of home do wonders to lift our spirits and remind us that we are not alone. To organize a care package from your church contact Joe Worden at joe_worden@hotmail.com.
4. **Donate**—As the work of the church is *continuous*, so must our support be continuous. We can not keep working in Peru without your gifts providing the financial means to do so.



Deaconess Students from St. Louis and the gifts they brought us

Short-term Team Deaconess Students

The mission in Peru partnered with LCMS Deaconess Ministries to help our deaconess students from St. Louis Seminary learn more about missions. LCMS Deaconess Ministries provided a grant which allowed three students and two deaconess professors to travel to Peru and spend a week here. The students helped teach our young church about women in the church and showed them that I'm not the only deaconess in existence! The students had an intensive week to shadow the missionaries and learn first-hand about missiology. They had classes here taught by missionaries and discussed hard topics like the relationship between mercy and missions and paternalism. It was a great week and we were blessed to work and learn together. In addition to bringing the students the grant from LCMS Deaconess Ministries provided new resources for our library. These resources are for the teaching of future deaconess/pastoral students as well as materials for Christian education which will be a principle task for deaconesses in the Peruvian church. The students also brought care packages to the missionaries from their families and support churches in the States. This was a wonderful gift to boost our spirits here on the field. A special thank you to Deaconess Grace Rao and LCMS Deaconess Ministries for making this possible.

Women's Retreats

In February, the Mission hosted its third women's retreat. This time the women learned about several examples of biblical women and the role of women in the church. The event was hosted at our congregation in La Victoria and attended by women from all the mission sites. There were over 50 people present including children; about 30 women were in the study. It was a blessing to have everyone together, to study, learn and be encouraged in the Lord's Word. The mission will continue with these quarterly women's retreats



for the whole mission. In addition, the congregation in Los Olivos has requested to begin a local women's group with monthly meetings in their congregation. Praise the Lord that this idea and desire has come from the women themselves. We will have the first meeting at the end of March. Please keep us in your prayers.



For more news updates, stories and photos follow me on Facebook, search for Caitlin Worden.

Please contact me at caitlin.worden@lcmsintl.org or by mail at 2272 Ramblin Dr. Battle Creek, MI 49014

Prayer Requests, Praises & Thanksgiving

Please pray for the the staff of Castillo Fuerte, for our Castillo Fuerte children and families.

We praise God that the Duke family is on their way to Lima, Peru. And pray for their time in the Dominican Republic.

Please pray for our upcoming Forum meetings in April.

This Lenten season we pray that we may reflect upon our sins and most importantly upon our need for a savior. We anxiously await His resurrection.

Please pray for the women mentioned by name in this newsletter as well as all the members and catechism students of the mission.

Please pray strength and encouragement upon myself and the other missionaries in Peru.

There are many opportunities to serve as a short-term missionary. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service



Alba receiving communion



VBS Jan 2017 Los Olivos



As a part of our daily lives on the mission field we teach the catechism and we encourage our members that study of the catechism is a lifelong process. As such all our kids in Castillo Fuerte constantly study Luther's Small Catechism and our churches teach on it each week for the adults. Over the past few months I have begun teaching purposeful catechism classes with several select young girls in La Victoria which will lead to their first communion and confirmation in the church. The class started with one young girl and her grandmother, but I now have six girls of different ages studying the catechism together and individually, all working towards their confirmation. It is really exciting to see them growing in faith with questions and enthusiasm to be in God's

Vicky and Naomi, two of our catechism students



Mentoring

Over the last several months, the women's ministries and activities have continued to expand in Peru. I have continued working in mentorship with several specific women: Doris, Alba, Naomi, and Carolina. There are many others but please keep these women specifically in your prayers. Doris is currently excluding herself from church activities and we pray that the Holy Spirit will call her back to himself. Naomi, 13, is currently in catechism classes and we pray for her continued study and growth in her Christian life, giving thanks to the Lord for how he is guiding her. Carolina has helped to bring her mother Beatriz into the church; Beatriz was confirmed in February. Carolina's daughter Lady has been sick over the last year and we pray for continued health. Alba, is a member in the congregation in Los Olivos and has been a great mover and shaker in the church. Mentoring these women is different for each one of them. Mostly, it involves spending time with them sharing in their joys and pains. It is about being an example of Godly womanhood and helping to guide and motivate them in their Christian walk. With all of them I get to have friendships, to laugh and share together and to be in God's Word. It's a joy to serve them in this way.

Catechism

To support my work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 50134

On the memo line mark all checks "Support of Caitlin Worden."

This will then be forwarded on the LCMS. You can also give directly
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
PO Box 790089 St. Louis, MO 63179.