

## News from our Missionaries

### Family updates – The Sharp Family in Puerto Rico

#### KIDS NEWS

We were able to have all the family together for both Thanksgiving and Christmas - a first for us in a long time. The kids enjoyed escaping the very cold Midwestern weather for some sun (and a lot Of rain) in Puerto Rico.

**Elias** is keeping busy as he nears his date to ship off for basic training for the Air National Guard. Unfortunately, getting a security clearance (and therefore a date for basic) was delayed by several things, including the government shutdown, and he will end up having to miss three semesters of school instead of two. If all goes well, he will return to the University Of Iowa in the Spring 2027 semester.

**Ambrose** is a senior and has college on his mind, too, as he considers the schools that have accepted him and waits for news from a few others.

**Callie** is a junior and is busy with school, cheerleading, and student government.

**Maggie** is getting involved in the drama club after playing volleyball in the fall.

All three St. Paul kids made the honor roll this past semester! Great job, kids!

#### THANKS!!

A big thank you to all the people who sent us Christmas cards! We know we would not be doing this important work without your help. For your prayers, support, and encouragement, THANK YOU!

Yours in the True Light,  
James, Angie,  
Elias, Ambrose, Callie, and Maggie  
John 1:9



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Jordan and Justin Logston serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), based in the Dominican Republic. Jordan is associate regional business manager for LCMS Latin America and the Caribbean. In this role, she assists the regional business manager with the region's finances, including handling foreign national support, managing LCMS properties, managing the corporate governance of entities and developing various reporting tools. Her goal is to assist the region and its missionaries as they strive to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to them.

The Logstons previously spent two years serving as LCMS missionaries in Belize. During this time, Justin served as a communications specialist, while Jordan helped grow the English-as-a-Second-Language program, worked as a business associate and helped with short-term mission teams. They have one son, Jamie Malachi, who joins them on the mission field.

Jordan's hometown is Cedaredge, Colo., and her home congregation is Immanuel Lutheran Church and School (ILCS) in Loveland, Colo. She previously served as ILCS' business manager, where she oversaw ministry finances and human resources, secured grants, launched the toddler program, and assisted with marketing efforts. Jordan attended the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, and received her A.A. in Liberal Arts from Aims Community College, Greeley. In her free time, Jordan enjoys the outdoors, reading, watching movies, drinking coffee and smoothies, and being a mom.

Justin's hometown is Loveland, Colo. He received his B.A. in Journalism from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, and his A.A.S. in Computer Networking from Front Range Community College, Fort Collins. Prior to moving to Belize, he served at ILCS, did voice acting and worked in the tech field. In his free time, Justin enjoys Star Wars, movies, reading, video games, softball and being a father.

Pray for the Logstons as they serve in the Dominican Republic. Ask God to give them strength and courage as they transition to new roles in a new field of service. Let us give thanks that the Logstons are serving in this part of the world.



**Pray daily  
for Jordan  
and Justin – and**

**how you can support and tell  
others about their ministry. Visit  
[lcms.org/logston](https://lcms.org/logston)**

**Learn about LCMS international  
work at [international.lcms.org](https://international.lcms.org)**

**Support an international worker.**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
 On Ash Wednesday in our church ashes are placed on our foreheads as a sign of repentance. For many, Lent is giving up some sort of indulgence like candy, Facebook, even alcohol, for 40 days. Conversations often start with the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Sadly, the emphasis too often distorts Lent. Lent is a valuable time for God's people to focus on Christ and his suffering and death. That's the essential element of Lent. Lent sharpens our focus on what God has given to us through the cross of Christ.

For Lutherans that starts when the law of God shows what caused his bloody death: our sins. We bow our heads as the publican in the temple did and pray, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

But Lent does not leave us in anguish and hopelessness. The gospel raises our eyes to the cross where we see that Jesus has paid for all our sins. Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Like the publican we go home with the comfort that we are justified—loved and forgiven by God because of Jesus. We offer God our praise and are filled with a renewed desire to serve him as dear children.

But sin does not disappear from our lives. Like children we find the law accuses us daily for careless failures as well as for and defiant disobedience. We discover that once we hear the gospel we struggle to be obedient children. Sin still lives within us. Like Paul we know, "I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing" (Romans 7:19). We are forgiven children but are still disobedient—saints and sinners at the same time. So, we return to the gospel—our Savior's cross—for forgiveness and strength to renew our efforts to be the children God has made us.

We cannot earn his love and acceptance. Peter and all the other disciples fled into the night. But Jesus embraced them in forgiveness. That forgiveness made them ready to serve. Reminders of his forgiveness sustained them in the years ahead as they, like us, struggled to live as disciples and children of God. Each Lenten season, we come to the cross, humbled by our sins but then rejoicing that God has done what we could not do even after we know Jesus. Only the cross brings forgiveness and strength to live as God's children.

Here's where the problem comes into view. "What are you giving up for Lent?" If you give something up for Lent so that you can think more often and more clearly about what Christ has done, no problem. But if you think that giving up something for Lent makes you worthy of forgiveness and God's approval, now we have a problem. Your vision has shifted from the cross and God's undeserved gift.

Lent is a human practice; it's not an ordinance from God. When we think that we can offer God anything for the gift of the cross, it is like trying to buy gold with Monopoly money. No matter how much we have, it will never be enough. Lent helps us to focus not on what we can do for God but on the gold of forgiveness, life, and salvation that God freely gives to all sinners.

That's the Lutheran emphasis. When we understand this, we come back to the cross for comfort and strength, not just at Lent, but regularly in our worship throughout the church year.

In Christ,  
 Pastor Manz



**Volunteers for March**  
**Usher – Jary Boger**  
**Greeter – Carole Zimmerman**  
**Fellowship – Ron & Julie Dlouhy**  
**Elder – Ron Dlouhy**  
**Media – Julie Dlouhy**  
**Altar Guild – Julie Dlouhy**

**Acolyte Schedule – September 2025 to August 2026**

Beginning this year, each confirmand is expected to acolyte for an entire calendar month. Given there are 12 months, each student will serve two months total. Below is a tentative schedule for the year. Please let the Pastor know if any adjustments need to be made. If an acolyte is unable to serve on a given Sunday because of an emergency or unexpected situation, they are responsible for finding a replacement and communicating that to the Pastor. Thank you for your service in the church!

September: Sophia Manz	January: Blake Sorensen	May: Makenna Dunkerson
October: Alexis Sorensen	February: Sophia Manz	June: Rylee Harkin
November: Rylee Harkin	March: Open	July: Blake Sorensen
December: Makenna Dunkerson	April: Alexis Sorensen	August: Open

**UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST**

March 3 @ 6:00p	Men’s Group
March 4 @ 1:00p	Bible Study (Weekly)
March 4 @ 7:00p	Midweek Lenten Service(Weekly
March 4 W 7:30p-8:30p	Confirmation (Weekly)
March 5 @ 9:00a	Care & Share
March 5 @ 6:15-7:30p	Adult Confirmation Class (Weekly)
March 7 @ 8:00a-Noon	LWML Zone Board Meeting
March 8 @ 2:00-4:00p	2026 Trivia
March 9 @ 6:00p	Elder’s Meeting
March 10 @ 9:00a	Quilting
March 10 @ 5:30p	Trustee’s Meeting
March 12 @ 9:00a	Quilting
March 16 @ 4:00p	LWML Meeting
March 17 @ 5:30p	Council Meeting
March 19 @ 10:15a	OSL West
March 24 @ 9:00a	Quilting
March 26 @ 9:00a	Quilting
March 29	Palm Sunday



Monte Harrington, birthday was listed as February 24 and should have been February 25. We hope you had a happy birthday, Monte. Please accept our apologies for having it listed on the wrong day.





*Daylight Savings Time begins March 8. Remember to turn your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.*



**SPRING CLEAN UP**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**  
**9:00 AM TO NOON**

Mark your calendars to join your fellow members in cleaning not only the church yard, but also the inside of the church. Bring your outside tools, and your cleaning rags, brooms, dusters, etc. Remember, many hands make for light work.

Hope to see you on April 18th.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

**IT'S TIME FOR TRIVIA 2026!!**

**MARCH 8 2:00 – 4:00 PM.**

How many teams will we have?

Who will be this year's winning team?

How many rounds will we play?

What will the categories be?

**We Hope To See You There!**

Through the generosity of many, Tim Huegel, Bob Bringolf and Steve Shelton took a truck load of items to Orphan Grain Train on Tuesday morning, February 24. A big thank-you to Tim for supplying his truck, as all the bags full of items wouldn't fit in a car, as evident in the pictures below.



Gretchen is a volunteer at Orphan Grain Train, working in the "kit" room.



Thank goodness for Tim and the use of his pick-up. There were a lot of bags to take to Orphan Grain Train and unload once there.



## Some Recipes to add to your personal collection.

### Chili Snack Mix – Sue Fortune

#### Ingredients:

16 oz Fritos	½ C brown sugar
11 oz Pretzels	1 C butter
1 pkg Goldfish	1 T. garlic powder
1 can Mixed Nuts	1 T Chili powder
	Cayenne to taste

#### Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
2. In a saucepan combine:  
brown sugar  
butter  
garlic powder  
Chili powder  
Cayenne
3. Bring mixture to boil .
4. Add ½ tsp baking soda and stir well with a whisk. The mixture will foam up.
5. Pour over snack mix.
6. Spread evenly in two baking sheets.
7. Bake 10-12 minutes, stirring halfway through.

### Frito Corn Salad

#### Ingredients

1. 3 cups fresh corn cut off the cob, or 2 (12-ounce) cans of corn, drained
2. 1/2 red bell pepper diced into 1/4-inch pieces
3. 1/2 green bell pepper diced into 1/4-inch pieces
4. 1/2 red onion diced into 1/4-inch pieces
5. 1 (4-ounce) can jalapeños drained, chopped, or 1 (4-ounce) can mild green chiles, drained
6. 2/3 cup mayonnaise
7. 2 teaspoons chili powder
8. 1 1/2 cups of cheddar cheese shredded
9. 5 ounces Fritos® corn chips
10. salt to taste
11. pepper to taste

#### Directions

1. In a large bowl, add the corn, the red bell pepper, the green bell pepper, the red onion, the jalapeños, the mayonnaise, the chili powder, and the cheddar cheese and mix well to combine.
2. Add the corn chips to the corn mixture just before serving and stir to combine.
3. Season the corn salad with salt and pepper.
4. Serve.

## What might we notice in March besides St. Patrick's Day and March Madness??

**National Nutrition Month** is an annual campaign during the month of March created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics during which everyone is invited to learn about making informed food choices, develop eating and physical activity habits. The theme for National Nutrition Month in March 2026 is "**Discover the Power of Nutrition!**" This theme highlights nutrition's role in helping individuals and communities thrive by encouraging informed food choices, developing healthy habits, and understanding how food impacts overall well-being.

**National Caffeine Awareness Month** is observed every March, encouraging people to reevaluate their daily caffeine intake and its impact on health. It highlights that for most healthy adults, up to 400mg of caffeine daily is safe, while excessive consumption may cause insomnia, nervousness, and rapid heart rate.

**Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®)** For more than 40 years, March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). The purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children—and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community, and to display the value that school music brings to students of all ages.

**National Athletic Training Month (NATM)** is celebrated every March to raise awareness about the vital work of athletic trainers (ATs) as healthcare professionals. Sponsored by the [National Athletic Trainers' Association](#) (NATA), this initiative highlights the role of ATs in injury prevention, diagnosis, emergency care, and rehabilitation across various settings.

**National Reading Month.** In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday (March 2), March is designated as National Reading Month – a month to motivate Americans of all ages to read every day. Reading is fun and has many benefits, regardless of your age. Daily reading for all ages boosts cognitive skills, empathy, and vocabulary. During March reading is often highlighted by library events, school activities, and reading challenges, and also marks Read Across America Day. With 25 million children in the U.S. unable to read proficiently, this month-long celebration is an essential opportunity to support every child's path to confidence, curiosity, and future success.

**Youth Art Month** encourages support for quality school art programs and promotes art material safety. The program provides a medium for recognizing skills developed through visual arts experiences including problem solving, creativity, observation, and communication. Art shows, special exhibits, fundraisers, and school and community activities take place annually, traditionally during March, to celebrate visual art education for grades K – 12.

Children's Art Month was created in 1961 as an event to emphasize the value to children from participating in visual art education. In 1969 the celebration expanded to include secondary school students, and the Children's Art Month event officially became known as Youth Art Month. In 1984, a non-profit organization was established to advocate for visual art education. CFAE coordinates the Youth Art Month program at the national level.

For the 2026 Youth Art Month (YAM) in Iowa, selected student artwork will be featured in a statewide exhibition, including a display at the Iowa State Capitol in the Governor's office. Winners for the 2026 competition, which has a theme of "The World Needs Art!", are selected by the Art Educators of Iowa. Key details for 2026 Youth Art Month in Iowa include:

- **Exhibition Location:** Jordan Creek Mall, with an awards ceremony on March 28, 2026.
- **Governor's Show:** 20 pieces of student art are selected for display in the Governor's office at the Iowa State Capitol.