

## Jesus' Work Through His Church

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!” – Psalm 96:3

We are on home service. “Home service” describes the time that missionaries travel to report back to the supporting churches about what God is doing on the mission field. This happens every two years for a two month period. We have visited the churches in Churubusco, Omaha, Madison, Sac City, Hooper, West Point, Norfolk, Buffalo Creek, Springfield, Elk Creek, Kansas City, Sterling, Havana, Wakeforest, Durham, Charlotte and Chatham. It is encouraging to worship with all of you, and hear God’s word preached in truth and love. We have witnessed confirmations, baptisms, churches celebrating 70 years, 150 years, new pastors installing, pastors serving vacancies faithfully, churches showing their pastor appreciation for his service, ice cream socials, new outreaches in the community, Lutheran schools, VBSs and the national LWML Convention! We have stayed with Lutheran families who are doing family devotions, and have enjoyed countless potlucks often when Gustavo is making some Venezuelan or Puerto Rican food. This has been a blessed and encouraging time as we meet people for the first time who we have been supporting us for a long time, like Kathleen and Marilyn who tells me “We pray for you every day”, and when men like Bobo in Sac City tell Gustavo thank you for serving in Puerto Rico, and Rick in Nebraska telling his fellow church members, “we need to keep supporting the work in Puerto Rico—these people need to hear about Jesus and we want to support the Maitas in sharing this good news”. Thank you everyone for these encouraging words, prayers and for your kind hospitality to our family.

An exciting meeting happened in Iowa:

While visiting Old Missionary Gary Thies at Mission Central, Iowa, and sharing the news from the mission field with dear supporters, Gustavo saw Pastor Henry Witte. He recognized this fellow missionary who served in Venezuela when he was a child. Henry was a missionary in Venezuela from 1980-2003. He was the pastor who married Gustavo’s parents and baptized Gustavo and his brother, Sergio. Now both brothers are serving in the mission field as pastors themselves! Look how God used Pastor Henry to bring the whole family to faith and now the sons to serving on the mission field!

Please keep praying for Puerto Rico—for continued growth in the Gospel, for strong leaders, and for open hearts to Christ’s saving Word. Thank you for walking with us in this mission. To God alone be the glory!



Gustavo and Ruth Maita, Mihaela (5), Isaiah (3) and Ivanna (1) at Mission Central, Iowa. Photo Credit: Old Missionary Gary



Henry Witte and Gustavo





## Prayer Requests, Praises and Thanks

Thanksgiving for the loving brothers and sisters in Christ who have welcomed and hosted us at their churches during this time of home service.

Thanksgiving for Pastor James and Vicar Paul who are covering the services in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico while we are away.

Thanksgiving for all members and Missionary Ashley Lehr for encouraging each other in the faith to gather for services and fellowship.

A picture is worth a thousand words...

Gustavo makes a Puerto Rican meal to share at the potluck held in Trinity Lutheran, Madison (below).

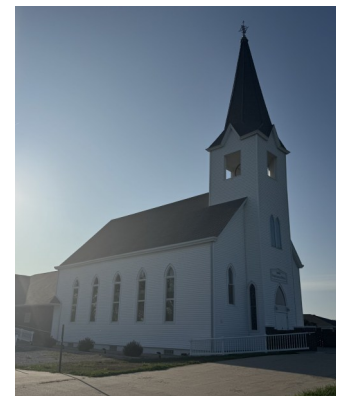


Above: We were prayed for at Mission Central, Iowa.

At left: we reconnected with fellow LCMS missionaries, the McMiller family, also on home service, who serve in Rome, Italy.



Potluck and presentation at St. Paul's, West Point, Nebraska



Another potluck and presentation was held at St. Peter's, Elk Creek, Nebraska established in 1871

Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Pastor Gustavo, Ruth, Mikhaela, Isaiah and Ivanna Maita*

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Ruth Maita, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

or to

Mission Central  
40718 HWY E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or Mission Central. Mark checks "Support of Ruth Maita". Gifts can also be given securely online, through the LCMS website, on my online giving page, which will be ready soon!