

<https://missioncentral.us/mroczenski/><https://www.lcms.org/Mroczenski>

## A Season of Preparation



*An image of the second coming of Christ by Ron DiCianni.*

As our deployment date nears, we find ourselves in a season of preparation. There is packing to be done, goodbyes to be said, plans to be made. Advent is also a season of preparation. Typically, we think of preparing for Christ's first coming, his incarnation and birth. However, Advent is not only a time to prepare for Christ's first coming but also for his second, when he will return to judge the living and the dead. Unlike our deployment, we do not know the day when Christ will return. We must be prepared at all times so that it does not come upon us suddenly as a trap (Luke 21:25-36). But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap (Mal 3:2). We prepare in part by repentance and by prayer. However, ultimately, there is nothing we can do to prepare ourselves for the final judgment. Thankfully, Christ has already prepared us. For by taking human flesh, he was able to die in our place and shed his perfect blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Now, by faith in this Jesus Christ and his saving work, we are justified and can stand before him on the last day as his blameless children. Christ continues to prepare us every day by coming to us in his word and sacraments. Therein, he continually delivers the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation won by his life, death, and resurrection. By these gifts, won by Jesus, and continually offered to us in his word and sacraments, we are strengthened and prepared to stand before him on the last day. So we can look forward to that day not with fear but with expectant joy. This Advent season and always, take heart. "Straighten up and raise your weary heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

La Paz de Cristo,

Paul, Courtney, & Jacqueline Mroczenski



### El Evangelio de Mateo

We recently added some Spanish reading to our nightly routine. We were already saying some of our prayers in Spanish. We have memorized the Padrenuestro (Our Father), and we are working on Luther's Evening Prayer. Now we have also begun reading the Gospel of Matthew (el evangelio de Mateo) every night. It has been a very fun experience to put into practice what we are learning and challenge ourselves while we read a familiar text in another language. We also plan to begin singing some hymns and learning the liturgy in Spanish. Please continue to pray for our Spanish language journey, so that we might proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Puerto Rico in their own language.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [courtney.mroczenski@lcmsintl.org](mailto:courtney.mroczenski@lcmsintl.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

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### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Peace as we say goodbyes and make preparations to deploy to the field.
- Strength and energy as we navigate new vocations and life with a child.
- That we would be diligent in our Spanish study and learn quickly and thoroughly.
- **GIVE THANKS FOR:**
- A quick and successful passport process.
- **PRAISE GOD FOR:**
- The birth of Jesus Christ so that he could take our sin away and be our savior.
- The many faithful churches and individuals who we have visited throughout the awareness raising process.

## From Fundraising to the Field



Our new prayer card photo with the newest addition to our family.

word *about* mission, but we will be *doing* mission. This means, your support is more important now than ever. Please continue to support us through your gifts, your prayers, and by spreading the word about God's work through us in Puerto Rico. Consider sharing our newsletter with someone today so they can join in supporting us.

[paulcourtneymroczenski.substack.com](http://paulcourtneymroczenski.substack.com)

### A Taste of Vicarage

Traveling and raising awareness about the Lord's work in Puerto Rico has been a blessing. It was wonderful to meet so many faithful supporters. Paul also had the opportunity to preach several times in the last few weeks. It was good practice and a nice taste of what vicarage is about, even before we get to Puerto Rico.

### Deployment

We have received Jacqueline's passport, and our flights to the Dominican Republic are booked. We will deploy to the DR in early January. We will spend about two months there for some on-field orientation and Spanish language learning. Then, in March, we will transition to Puerto Rico and officially begin our missionary service there by spreading the gospel, planting Lutheran churches, and showing mercy.

### The End of Fundraising

With deployment day looming, we are transitioning from full-time fundraising to making preparations to depart. However, our need for funding is not gone yet. We are probably 60-75% funded right now. Going forward, we will no longer be spreading the

*Moving from Wisconsin to the Caribbean in January will be a pleasant change of weather for us. Jacqueline is especially looking forward to it, so she doesn't have to get all bundled up to go outside. Sunshine and pleasant weather are a wonderful reminder of the many ways the Lord provides for us and gives us blessing we do not deserve, all because of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*"Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun." —Ecclesiastes 11:7*



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."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Paul and Courtney Mroczenski. Make checks payable to:

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

OR

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include: *Mroczenski-Puerto Rico*

Give securely from any device: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/mroczenski>

Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438