

Happenings in Colombia
Curtis & Katie Kline
Winter Newsletter, 2016



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Just Around the Corner, by Curtis

The 2016 year is going to be a busy and productive year for the human rights program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO). Starting with the direct accompaniment of five congregations in themes that they chose, ranging from the transformation of conflicts to the right to education; we will be holding numerous workshops, mapping community assets to get involved in these issues and creating more resources for the communities.

We will also be writing study guides, community-based devotions, as well as a new book of liturgies focused on celebrating/commemorating/observing international days connected to peace and justice, such as December 10, which is the international day of human rights, or March 8 which is international women's day.

This will be in addition to working with and through our ecumenical partners in promoting peace through justice in a country going through a seemingly successful peace process after more than 50 years of armed conflict. It is an exciting year ahead. Please keep all the work of the human rights program as well as all the ministries of IELCO in your thoughts and prayers.

Home assignment:

We are preparing for our home assignment June-July 2016. If you would like us to visit your congregation, and share about Colombia and the ministries here, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate these wishes.

Right: Curtis and Katie with Katie's parents—Anne and David Andert on a visit to the San Agustin ruins during the Christmas vacation.



Lent and Living Intentionality, by Katie

Just over a week ago we started Lent. We start Lent with the reminder: "remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return". (It is not part of the tradition for most Lutheran churches here to use ashes on Ash Wednesday because of the history between Protestants and Catholics). We came from dust, and we will return to dust, however, there is a lot of life and living that happens in between.

Growing up, Lent was always my favorite church season. I loved soup suppers, I loved the change of pace, and I loved the close sense of community that our church always seemed to have, especially during Lent. Lent was an intentional season, and I loved it, I continue to love it. As Lent was getting closer and closer this year I was trying to figure out what to do to make it feel like Lent, 'what was I going to give up?'. I couldn't come up with anything. Finally, I came across a 'photo-a-day' challenge. I loved the idea, and thought it would be a perfect for the blog, a perfect change of pace, and a good change of tradition. It would be a perfect way to share our 'normal' lives. It would be a good practice to pay attention, to celebrate Lent, and to live intentionally. We are only one week in, but I see and feel the difference already. I hope you will join us, on our photo-a-day Lenten journey.

We love hearing from you!
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Follow our blog & don't forget to subscribe:
(during Lent we are updating daily with a photo)
8000feetandcounting.blogspot.com

Prayer requests

- † IELCO as a united church, each of the congregations, each pastor, and all the lay workers of IELCO
- † For the upcoming extraordinary assembly
- † For us as we discern our future

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

By check: Make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Curtis and Katie Kline GCS2019" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: ELCA, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

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