



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

August 2005, Newsletter #89

www.amigoscenter.org

Spiritual Retreat

We are making plans for a spiritual retreat at the Woodlands Lutheran Camp in August. Pastor Selle will lead participants in a study/reflection of the lives of various Biblical persons. The weekend will end with an opportunity for participants to confess their faith and commitment to follow Jesus Christ. We expect about 50 people to participate.

Bonita Springs Hosts Event

Amigos en Cristo together with other Lutheran cross-cultural ministries across the State of Florida are preparing a two day seminar that will help churches begin cross-cultural ministries of their own. Amigos Center, Lutheran Services Florida, Hispanic Institute of Theology, LCMS Florida-Georgia District and others will offer topics such as Immigration Law, Latin Music and Worship, Theological Education, Hispanic Youth Ministry, Funding the Mission, ESOL and many other topics. Mark September 23 and 24 on your calendars. The event will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, Bonita Springs, Florida. You are invited.

DCE Sarah Paganes

Sarah Paganes, our new DCE, is a brave Christian woman. Recently graduated from Concordia University, River Forrest, Sarah is currently in the Dominican Republic where she continues to upgrade her language and cross-cultural skills. In a recent E-mail she wrote:

They are so friendly and accommodating. It is hard though because everyone speaks so fast that most of the time I have no idea what's going on and I don't know how to really ask what's going on, and when I do ask, I can't understand their responses! But each day it is getting a bit easier. I think they understand now that I don't always understand and they need to speak slowly. I just hate feeling stupid and that's what I feel like when I can't understand and can't communicate, but it presses me all the more to learn faster. They are very laid back though and I really like that.

Telephone: (239) 437-6727, Rev. Robert and Donna Selle

Sarah returns to the USA on August 7 to begin her duties as a full-time member of our staff.

Amigos Gathering

Members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church, Bonita Springs, will meet our new DCE and hear first hand how God is blessing our Amigos ministry. They will also hear from representatives of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans about Charitable gifting opportunities that will help assure the financial future of our ministry. We will meet in the fellowship hall on Saturday, August 27 at 9:00 AM. All are welcome. Look for an Amigos Gathering at your church soon.

New Language Courses

The week of September 12 will begin a new 13-week semester of Spanish Classes and English as a Second Language Classes. We are planning on holding classes in Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs and Naples. See you then.

Thrivent Matching Gift

Thrivent Financial has introduced an incentive to encourage participation in their Giving Plus matching gift program. If we can get at least 25 Thrivent households to make a donation to Amigos Center and have the gift matched by Thrivent, we will receive a bonus gift of thousands of dollars. Deadline is December 1, 2005. So please let us know if you are a Thrivent member when you send us your donation. For more info go to: www.thrivent.com/fraternal/churchcommunity/givingplus

Give thanks to God for . . .

➤ Our volunteer language teachers.

Pray for . . .

➤ Sarah Paganes and her language studies
➤ Spiritual fruit from our retreat at Woodlands.