



CHILE MISSION



- ***Ever-widening geographical ministry scope***
- ***Sowing Gospel seeds in the wake of repeated disasters***
- ***Lutheran schools provide outreach opportunities for 1000+ students and families***

LCMS involvement in Chile began in the 1960s in the port city of Valparaiso. Since the late 1990s, LCMS Disaster Response efforts have helped extend the reach of the Gospel. The Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile has ten congregations in Santiago, Valparaíso, Viña del Mar, Talca and Constitución.

The six pastors who serve the Chilean church are stretched very thin. For example, Pastor Obed Coronado serves with Rev. Marcelo Rivas, a 2022 graduate of Concordia the Reformer Seminary, to provide spiritual care for more than 1000 students who attend Lutheran schools in Viña del Mar and Valparaiso. Each man also serves as the pastor of a local congregation.

Intentional outreach to the local communities has borne much fruit. For example, in Valparaiso, Talca and Santiago, church

members came together during lockdowns to pool their meager resources and serve their communities with physical food as well as spiritual food. That effort continues to produce fruit three years later.

The Chilean church is seeing rapid growth. With that growth comes the challenge of identifying and nurturing future pastors. Pastor Rivas was ordained in March 2023 and another recent seminary graduate is ordained and expects to join the Chilean pastorate within the year. A new residential pastoral formation student will continue his theological education in the Dominican Republic this fall. Many more are needed. We pray the Lord will bless His Church with workers for the ripe harvest fields.

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