

Erik

“I’m a sinner,” Erik says. “I am a sinner saved through Christ and I am a sinner saved through grace. I am a sinner who God loves.”

Erik was not so aware of these truths in 2009, when he and his wife Gisela enrolled their oldest child in Noah’s Ark school at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa. Erik had never attended church, but he and Pastor David Gerke discussed biblical subjects. Pastor Gerke suggested that Erik become acquainted with Pastor Pablo Dominguez at Cristo Rey (Christ the King) in East Moline, then a Central Illinois District mission. At the time, Erik did not follow up.

A few months later, Erik and Gisela went through something traumatic that threatened to destroy their marriage. They needed counseling. Erik talked with the pastor at Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Davenport, who was licensed for family counseling. When Erik pointed out that his wife spoke only Spanish, the pastor suggested Pastor Pablo Dominguez in East Moline.

Something was happening.

Pastor Dominguez met with Erik and Gisela. Erik likes what he heard somewhere along the line: “If God has the power of raising His Son from the dead, He can certainly raise a marriage.”

Erik, Gisela, and their three children first attended church at Cristo Rey on Easter Sunday, 2010. They have been there ever since. Gisela has served in the Vacation Bible School. Erik has been a Sunday School teacher and congregational president. In the latter capacity he signed the documents when Cristo Rey became a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and of the Central Illinois District on April 8, 2018.

The Lord used your congregation’s gifts to the Central Illinois District to put Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in place and maintain its ministry, for folks like Erik, Gisela, and their children. Thank you!

“I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the gospel” (Phil. 1:3-5).

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