

WINTER 2020



Ysleta Lutheran
Mission Human Care



Luz M. Soto, DCE & Communications

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2019 JOY DISTRIBUTION



City Football League, Little Redskins, dedicated their morning to help distribute toys and jackets



Over 469 food baskets and blankets were distributed with the help of the Zaragoza Rotary Club of El Paso and members of San Pablo Lutheran Church



Food, blankets, toys and jackets were donated by community partners and US-wide donors

THANK YOU
FOR HELPING US
GIVE TO THOSE
IN NEED!

469 Families received food baskets and blankets

274 Kids received toys

430 Kids received jackets



With over 40 volunteers, it was a calm and joyful distribution as close to 600 people came to YLM for food, blankets, toys and jackets

Close to 900 people were on the YLM Campus on December 21st. It was a beautiful day, with a bright blue sky and a nip of cold in the air, but people were full of joy as they received plentiful food baskets for their families, along with specially made blankets, carefully packaged toys, and jackets donated by a partnering organization in El Paso.

Christmas music filled the air, along with laughter as people worked together to deliver the bountiful gifts donated by generous people throughout the United States. With forty volunteers, there was a constant flow of compassion as elderly were helped by Rotary members with their heavy food baskets, and youth from a Doña Ana city league football team helped retrieve toys and jackets for families.

What a great way to celebrate God's greatest gift, His Son, by giving of our time, compassion, care and kindness to each other as we served!

ANAPRA MISSIONS HOST DENTAL CLINIC

The first week of October was busy for the mission-churches of Anapra, Iglesia Luterana San Lucas and La Santa Biblia as they prepared to welcome a Dental Mission Team from California. From preparing their brochures to advertise the upcoming clinic to getting all the necessary permits to cross thousands of dollars in equipment and materials, they worked in conjunction with YLM to host a Dental Clinic for the poverty stricken community of Anapra.

This three-day dental clinic kept busy as they saw over fifty people for routine teeth cleaning, fillings, and even extractions. The dentist, who has been part of this dental mission team to Anapra for ten years and counting, was happy to see familiar faces, and new faces as well.

Thanks to mission-churches like San Lucas and La Santa Biblia, the people of Anapra receive hope through the giving kindness of people such as the California dental care team. YLM was grateful to be the bridge between the Mexico mission-churches and the dental mission team.



Kimberly smiles wide after a check-up from the California Dental Mission Team



What a blessing to have friends help make the fear of seeing the dentist easier to handle

CARE AND COMPASSION FOR REFUGEES IN JUAREZ



For many who live in El Paso, crossing the border into and from Juarez is a normal part of life. It was during such a trip when a member of San Pablo Lutheran Church, one of the mission-churches partnering with YLM, noticed over 2,000 people living out of tents made of cardboard, tarp, and thick black plastic at the Chamizal Park of Juarez just past the Cordova International Bridge. "It was heartbreaking to see so many people in obvious need," she shared as several San Pablo members gathered together to make 100 bologna and cheese sandwiches, "The media highlights the politics behind refugees and immigration but what we see is people who are hurting and needing kindness."

A couple of weeks later, San Lucas and La Santa Biblia from Anapra, Juarez approached YLM -they too wanted to help the refugees at the Chamizal Park. For two days in a row, they took insulated blankets and hygiene kits, close to 200, and visited with families within the tent community. One of those visits had several members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Missions Department, both National and International, coming along. The blankets and hygiene kits were but a dent to the magnitude of the need, but everyone involved was willing to try.

For the Thanksgiving weekend, a team of sixteen from Centennial, Colorado took the time to pack over 200 meals, and stopped at Chamizal Park after they fed over 300 people at Kilometro 30. Giving out boxes and paper bags of food, with loaves of bread and candy bags for the children, it was a moment out of time as people ran to the team, little hands and tearstained faces begging for candy bags.

For the Christmas season, the care and compassion towards those people far from their homes and families continued as Rev Dr. Karl Heimer, pastor of San Pablo Lutheran Church, gave a special service at the ICE Detention Facility, along with Mariachi San Pablo. Every chair was occupied, hands and hearts raised in praise as Christmas hymns and popular Christmas mariachi music was played. For a brief time, these men and women were able to feel joy.

"It was heartwarming to see those detained able to pray and sing with you at the Christmas Service." –Rev. David E. Semmens, ICE Chaplain



Rev Dr. Arthur Juvst (LCMS-International Missions) joins YL and Mexico mission-churches in giving insulated blankets to refugees in Juarez



Members of San Pablo Lutheran Church take sandwiches and bottled water to refugees in Juarez



MINISTRY CONTINUES

AT LA SANTA BIBLIA

With the demolition of what had once been Iglesia Sin Paredes (Church Without Walls), it is quite a beautiful experience to join La Santa Biblia as they continue to meet for worship, service, and fellowship. Baptisms are taking place, Confirmation is being taught, and service to their neighbors continues in the form of cups of soup on Wednesdays and distributions of food baskets on Fridays. Despite the lack of a sanctuary, pews, stained glass windows, and Sunday school rooms, this beautiful church embodies what a church is to be –no walls, no frills, just the redeemed people of God coming together to learn, pray, fellowship, and serve.



Jesus reads the Christmas Story during La Santa Biblia's Friday Service



Baby Moses is baptized outside the storage container where the members of La Santa Biblia meet for worship, fellowship, and service

NEW VAN

DONATED TO YLM

Brand new van made it's maiden voyage into Juarez last week of December

What a great blessing it was to receive funds for a brand-new fifteen passenger van! Trinity Lutheran Church from Stamford, CT called in the middle of the summer, letting Rev Dr. Karl Heimer, CEO of YLM, know their congregation had voted to give YLM funds to fix the flat-bed truck donated early 2019, but also, enough funds for a brand-new fifteen passenger van.

What an amazing blessing from fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! The last week of December, after all transactions and permits were completed, the van's maiden voyage into Mexico was done during the one week it was needed the most, what with 79 people needing to get across the border to build five houses in one week.

Thank you, Trinity Lutheran, for your continued blessings and support of the work being done in and through YLM –we are indeed changing lives everyday through simple acts of kindness, and your act of kindness towards our mission has already started impacting lives!



EPIPHANY

AT KILOMETRO 30

The small church of San Pedro y San Pablo in Kilometro 30 (KM 30) gathered together to study the manifestation of God's love in Jesus Christ on Epiphany day. Their simple celebration consisted of a Rosca de Reyes (Kings' Cake) and champurrado (Mexican style hot chocolate), with gifts for the children, but in the middle of it all, the sweetest gift they received was learning Jesus came for them as well.

This small church, which meets at a member's house, is hungry to learn of God's Word, and are eager to help their neighbors. KM 30 is an impoverished community, with no running water. Many of the people living in this colonia have great need, and San Pedro y San Pablo is excited to be partnering with YLM to bring in mission teams in March to build small houses for families in need of a safe place to call home.



San Pedro y San Pablo in Kilometro 30 met for a devotion, praise, and prayer before being served a Thanksgiving meal by mission team Our Father Lutheran Church from Centennial, CO



The small church in Kilometro 30 meet to learn of Epiphany, the Gentiles Christmas, and celebrate with Kings' Cake and champurrado





BRINGING GOD'S LOVE ACROSS THE BORDER

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I! Send me!"*

~Isaiah 6:8

The last three months of 2019 were filled with joy and love as mission teams traveled cross-country to bring the love of God to the people of Juarez. They found their joy in the smiles of children, the heartfelt messages of gratitude from families, and the satisfaction of a job well done.

To see the relationships made, the gestures of kindness exchanged, the barriers of language and upbringing crumbling under the glorious weight of God's love and grace is a blessing beyond belief. This winter, six houses were built, forty families received water

filters, and over a thousand people received Thanksgiving meals. Those were their objective, but their purpose was to bring the love of God to people who do not know Him through the work of their hands, the joy in their smiles, and the love in their actions.



Our Father Lutheran Church from Centennial, CO served over 1,000 Thanksgiving meals at San Pablo, La Santa Biblia, San Lucas, and Kilometro 30 for their 24th annual Thanksgiving mission trip



MOST Ministries' mission team Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church from Brighton, MI held Water Clinics in Anapra and KM 30, providing education and water filters to people without access to clean water



Faith Lutheran from Branson, MO and Trinity Lutheran from Madison, NE came together to build a house for Daniel, a new believer in Christ and member of San Lucas, his wife, and their young daughter.



Mayer Lutheran High School from Mayer, Minnesota spent the last days of 2019 and the first of 2020 building relationships along with five houses in Anapra

Prayerfully consider putting together a Mission Team within your church, family or friends and neighbors! Contact us at **(915) 858-2588** or **luz.soto@ylm.org** to get information of the different service opportunities available through our Mission Events ministry!

Check out our website for more pictures of these Great Experiences at **www.ylm.org**!



ADOPTING THE FOOD PANTRY WEEKENDS

It's been an amazing thing to witness, the way God moves people and changes lives! For the last five months, the San Pablo-YLM Food Pantry has been shifting and changing. It has been an opportunity of growth as church members and YLM learned to work together in shifting the focus and purpose of the Food Emergency Program. Continuing to offer nutritious and healthy food staples to people in need was the goal, but the purpose has changed

to becoming a bridge from those who serve to the community they are serving. It's been a great blessing as churches have called to schedule a weekend when the Food Pantry becomes their avenue to doing outreach. Groups, such as the El Paso 4-H, and civil minded groups, such as the Zaragoza Rotary Club, have also reached out to take on a weekend.



The core team of volunteers for the Food Pantry are members of San Pablo Lutheran Church, always eager to team up with other churches, groups, and organizations



El Paso 4-H and Clover Clubs not only adopted the Food Pantry on Saturday morning, but also helped sort, organize, and clean toys, break down boxes, and bag beans



Zion Lutheran Church adopted their weekend in early November and gave out close to 200 food baskets, along with fruit, potatoes and bread



The weekend after Thanksgiving Day was taken on by members of Ascension Lutheran Church, who have committed to adopt one weekend every three months

What a joy to see our El Paso community connect through service and acts of kindness!

Call (915) 858-2588 or email Miguel Muñoz, miguel.munoz@ylm.org, to schedule a weekend for your family, church, work/school group, or club to Adopt the Food Pantry!



After four years of being involved with YLM, through four servant event trips with Trinity Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, Scott Juengel moved to YLM on October 2019 to join us in our mission to "change lives through simple acts of kindness".

"I am in heaven," is the phrase he continuously uses when asked about his new home with YLM. He is eager and willing to serve in any area where he's needed. His work with the last three Mission Teams has been blessed with God's grace and mercy. As for the YLM staff –we are all blessed to be working alongside Scott as God uses us all to further His Good News.

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3

GET INVOLVED

Host a YLM Mission Sunday Celebrate and teach about missions by sharing about YLM's work on the border! Would you like to have someone from YLM Skype or travel to speak at your event? Contact Luz M. Soto at luz.soto@ylm.org or (915) 858-2588.



Prayerfully consider becoming an "Amigo de Ysleta" by signing up on our website, www.ylm.org, to donate \$10 or more automatically every month.

Volunteering at YLM can be a most rewarding experience for you! Whether it's for a few hours, days, weeks or months, there's always something to do at YLM that will positively impact others, as well as yourself. For further information on volunteering, contact us at ylm@ylm.org or (915) 858-2588.



Save the Date!

Our 2020 YLM Gala Event will be held on

May 8th



For all Amazon shoppers –you can choose Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care as your charity of choice! All you have to do is make sure you shop through smile.amazon.com and Amazon will give 0.05% of the price of eligible items to YLM.

Gather food and supplies by organizing a donation drive. We collect donations year-round. For further information on how you can help, contact Miguel Muñoz at miguel.munoz@ylm.org or (915) 858-2588.



Education is a fundamental necessity for a successful future. Many children in Mexico have to give up school by the time they're 11 due to the expense of continuing secondary education. Prayerfully consider donating to our Stay in School Scholarship program to help children pursue a brighter future.

Mark Bibles for Lutheran Prison Ministry using our downloadable Bible Marking guides from our website. You will be helping our Lutheran Prison Ministry provide Bibles to jails, prisons, and detention centers throughout the United States.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @ylmhc

LEARN MORE AND CONTACT US AT
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Featured Story, Pg 3

WINTER 2020

“And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

1 John 4:21



In a world where kindness seems rare, it becomes quite amazing news when someone does a kind act towards a stranger. Within the pages of this Winter 2020 Newsletter, you will find stories of kindness being our daily way of interacting with the people we serve. Through the Holy Spirit, the kindness we share together, you and YLM, goes further than providing for physical needs...it goes to the heart of the matter, that is, our need for Jesus.

Let's continue to bring God's love, grace and mercy to the Border cities of El Paso and Juarez every day through simple acts of kindness this 2020!

In Christ's Love for All,
Rev Dr. Karl Heimer,
YLM CEO and Pastor