

Spring 2019



YLM

Human Care



Servant Events at YLM

With the help of six Servant Event groups, we've had ten homes built so far this year, which means ten families with sturdy and warm little houses of their own. YLM gives the opportunity to discover the joy of servant leadership, the comfort of giving to others through hard work and compassionate hearts. Opportunities for service in the El Paso and Juárez areas, from construction to repairs/renovations, to educational programs such as VBS, and even medical clinics.



"Trinity Lutheran Church spent a week at YLM leading the first VBS at La Santa Biblia"

VBS at La Santa Biblia

Iglesia Luterana de la Santa Biblia in Anapra, Juárez, was able to host VBS thanks Trinity Lutheran Church from Lincoln, Nebraska. Kids and young teenagers put together crafts as they learned about each Creation Day and the fulfillment of God's promise, enjoying simple and delicious meals every day for lunch. While at La Santa Biblia, Trinity Lutheran not only lead VBS, they also built a home for a family of four and distributed backpacks and school supplies to all school aged children. This Nebraska church has been coming to YLM since 2001.



"Relationships are built along with homes"



Top: "Children at La Santa Biblia spend four days learning about the Creation Account in Genesis through story-telling, crafts, and fun"

Left: "Along with fun VBS games and lessons, children received a meal to fill their tummies half-way through the day"



"Servant Event groups' hard work and attention to detail ensure these homes will last for years to come"

Thank You For a Great Start to 2019!

- Mayer Lutheran High School -Mayer, MN
- Family of Christ Lutheran Church -Ham Lake, MN
- Our Savior Lutheran Church -Minot, ND
- Martin Luther Chapel -Lansing, MI
- St. Paul Lutheran Church -Mt. Prospect, IL
- Trinity Lutheran Church -Lincoln, NE

Schedule Servant Events, Summer Internships, or Volunteer Times

There's always something to be passionate about at YLM! Elvira Viramontes, YLM's Program Director, can be reached at elvira.viramontes@ylm.org or (915) 858-2588 for you to schedule a servant event group, an internship, or even a few hours of volunteering.



A Gift of Mercy

YLM's acts of kindness started with food distributions back in 1982, when YLM was first founded, and now it's grown to a weekly event where over 300 families come to receive food staples to help through the month, occasionally receiving fresh produce that has been donated. YLM buys certain food items from the West Texas Food Bank. This means for about \$2 per family, we can purchase enough food to supplement the donations. Thanks to a grant from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, there will be plenty of surplus food when donations slow down. We can continue serving the three hundred plus families every week, even when there's almost empty shelves, thanks to this grant of mercy we've received.



"Thanks to the grant, fresh produce will be available for over two hundred families to take home along with other food staples"



"Those who are disabled or elderly are grateful to get a little extra help in the form of food baskets"



"YLM's volunteers always serve with compassion and a smile in their mission to show kindness to others"

Hot Meal Program

For many one hot meal may be the only meal they get for the day, so it is especially difficult when there's no volunteer available to cook for that day. Volunteers willing and able to cook are needed at YLM to ensure there's always a hot meal available to those seeking to fill empty stomachs. For more information on volunteering for YLM's Hot Meal Program, give us a call at (915) 858-2588 and ask for Elvira Viramontes, Program Director, or e-mail her at elvira.viramontes@ylm.org



"They're always grateful when there's a hot meal prepared for them to enjoy"

Packing for the Future

For several years, YLM has sought ways to alleviate the back-to-school financial burden for many families. Through year-round donations of backpacks and school supplies, over 800 kids in El Paso alone receive their required supplies for every new school year. There are so many families, both in El Paso and our sister city of Juárez, waiting in line for hours to receive these needed backpacks and school supplies, along with additional needed items, such as hygiene items (pg 7).

This year, as we prepare for the upcoming distribution in early September, we find ourselves in severe need of the following items:

- Backpacks (Gently Used or New)
- Wide-Ruled Paper
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Notebooks
- #2 Pencils
- Pens
- Colored Pencils
- Rulers
- Glue
- Pocket Folders



Continuing Education

While public schooling is free in Mexico, students must purchase their own textbooks, supplies and uniforms, as well as pay for additional charges such as admission/registration fees, transportation, after-school activities and other student programs. Through YLM's "Stay in School" Scholarships sponsored by donors, we have twelve students able to continue with their education.

Donate to our scholarship effort at www.ylm.org



Top Left: "Over a thousand children, both in El Paso and Juárez, received backpacks last year"

Top: "At last year's school backpack distribution, children enjoyed pulling out all their supplies, their anticipation for the new school year increasing with every item"

**Stay in
School
Scholarship**

"Family of Christ Lutheran Church with a very grateful family in Anapra, Mexico"



"His allergies and asthma can now be managed thanks to a new home built by a Servant Event team from Ham Lake, Minnesota"

LIFELONG ASTHMA: HOME RELIEVES STRAIN

Lizell and Emilio have more than the basics of life (housing, food, clothing and school) to cover for their family of six; their son needed medication to help manage life-threatening asthma brought on by allergies. These medical issues were discovered when he was a baby; with tears in her eyes, Lizell recounted the many times he had to be rushed to the hospital to have his airway opened. Lizell shared the financial difficulties she and her husband struggle with: "Each week, I had to decide whether to buy food or medicine. Often, I've skipped meals so my children could eat and, perhaps, be able to purchase some of the medicine my son needs."

Unfortunately, the pay at her husband's full-time work at the maquila (factory) barely paid enough to cover some of those basics of life. YLM's Committee wanted to help, but there was no certainty there would be a Servant Event team available to build a home for them.

A house of their own would be a great help in alleviating the financial strain for Lizell and Emilio, so there was great joy, and surprise, when Alonso Gonzalez, YLM's Servant Event Project Facilitator, let them know a Servant Event team was coming to build them a house! A team of men and women, young and old, from Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Ham Lake, Minnesota, arrived at YLM

on March 9th. Despite the threat of severe weather, work was started on Monday and pretty much completed by Wednesday. On Thursday, the Family of Christ team were able to present keys to the beautiful home to Lizell, Emilio, and their four children.



Top: *"These young people make sure the insulation is properly installed to keep the cold and dust outside"*

Left: *"Several in the group had construction experience, so the house went up rather quickly despite the high-winds and threat of rain"*

EASTER BAPTISMS

Seven children were baptized by Pastor José Hernandez at Santísima Trinidad this Easter Sunday. Along with the baptisms, there were three confirmations. What an amazing day for these children of God to be baptized into His family and confirmed into His Church!



"A banner showing the plans for the first building to go up -the Fellowship Hall"



LA SANTA BIBLIA

Faith in knowing God will help provide what's needed to continue the ministry at La Santa Biblia, a decision was made to tear all the buildings down. The current ministries of Wednesday Soup Day, which feeds up to 150 children plus adults and elderly, and Friday Worship Services are looking into moving over to another one of YLM's mission churches, San Lucas Lutheran Church due to the sandy ground of the property being prepared for the pouring of the foundation.

With the help of donors and volunteers, the raising of the first building will begin this fall once the foundation is set. Family of Christ Lutheran Church from Ham Lake, MN has been a huge help in designing the new buildings and will be coming in the fall to start raising up walls to what once was known as the Church Without Walls.



"La Santa Biblia (previously the Church Without Walls) continues to meet for worship and fellowship despite the lack of buildings"



"Seven children were baptized into God's family on Easter Sunday"

BIBLES FOR IMMIGRATION DETAINEES

Over 500 Bibles in English, Spanish, French, and even Portuguese, were donated to YLM's Lutheran Prison Ministry; several of the Portuguese Bibles have been given away at the Detention Center, as well as a French Bible a couple of weeks ago.

Every Saturday afternoon, Rev. Dr. Karl Heimer dedicates a few hours to lead a worship service for the men and women currently detained at the Immigration Detention Center. Over 100 men, and just as many women, take the opportunity to worship but even more amazing, they get to have a Bible of their own. Over 600 Bibles have already been given away these last four months.



"French and Portuguese Bibles were among the 500 donated to YLM by the LWML and LC-MS through the Lutheran Refugee Services"

"You can listen to YLM's weekly broadcasts live or via our website, iTunes, or Google Play."





"In every backpack, a kit of hygiene items is included for children"

HYGIENE PACKS

For the past five years, YLM has hosted a Health Fair on its campus. This big event draws over a thousand people; information is given out by El Paso organizations offering help and assistance, and families registered for food baskets and school backpacks with supplies get in the lines to receive this much needed help.

Within those backpacks are hygiene kits, which include items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, washcloth, and even a new pair of socks and underwear. YLM is urgently needing the following hygiene items for the 2019 Health Fair schedule for early September:

- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Hand Sanitizer
- Toothpaste
- Washcloths

GET INVOLVED IN 2019!

Servant Events (Mission Trip)

Travel to YLM for a week-long service project for mission repair, home construction, Vacation Bible School, clinics, summer internships, and more. Fall and Winter weeks are still available this year for staying in our dormitory and options exist for groups wishing to spend nights in Mexico. Write to service@ymlm.org or call us and ask for Elvira Viramontes to learn about projects and scheduling options.

Volunteer for a Few Hours

Monday through Friday, we need help with sorting food and other items for distribution. We also need help with cooking, teaching, cleaning, office tasks & more.

Gather Food & Supplies

Organize a donation drive to gather food (year-round), school supplies (especially for August), hygiene supplies (year-round), toys, jackets, blankets (especially for December).

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 to Skype or travel to speak at your event? Write to luz.soto@ymlm.org

Host a Concert

Bring Mariachi San Pablo to your worship services or evangelism, outreach, and community care events. Write to mariachi@ymlm.org or call us and ask for Miguel Muñoz.

Mark Bibles for Lutheran Prison Ministry

Download Bible Marking guides from our website and help Lutheran Prison Ministry provide Bibles to jails, prisons, and detention centers throughout the US.

Donate Today

We are now using Network For Good to process online donations. Sign up to donate \$10 or more automatically every month and become an "Amigo de Ysleta!"

LEARN MORE AND CONTACT US AT WWW.YLM.ORG



Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care

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Featured Story, Pg. 5



SPRING 2019



"...and as dearly loved children...live a life of love, just as Christ loved us..."

Ephesians 5:1-2

What a great beginning to a new year! Many families and individuals, both here in El Paso and across the border, have been immensely blessed through so many simple yet wonderful acts of kindness! Within the pages of this Spring 2019 Newsletter, you'll find some glimpses of all that's been done the first four months of the year, which will continue into the rest of the year.

Many thanks for your on-going prayers, support, and unwavering participation in our mission of 'changing lives every day through simple acts of kindness.'

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Dr. Karl Heimer,
YLM Pastor & CEO