



YLM
Human Care

Spring / Summer 2022



PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Iglesia Luterana de La Santa Biblia in Anapra has had **twenty baptisms of infants, children, youth, and adults**. With the help of Rev. Stephen Heimer, senior pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX, continual instruction and biblical teaching are made available to this growing congregation.

Iglesia Luterana San Lucas, located in Anapra, has been instructing their young people throughout the year. Three of them completed 1st Communion instruction and are now taking confirmation lessons. Two young boys were baptized by Pastor Lozano on a Wednesday afternoon with eight adults currently receiving instruction for their own upcoming baptisms.

Santisima Trinidad, on the west side of Juarez, had baptisms and confirmations on Easter Sunday. These Easter baptisms and confirmations are a tradition at Santisima Trinidad, allowing for Pastor Hernandez to help parents, sponsors, and youth develop a commitment to faith-growth throughout the year.

At San Pablo Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX, two young girls were baptized in March. An adult Confirmation class is taking place during the Sunday Bible Study hour, and with weekly Bible studies offered for men, women, and the community as a whole, this mission-church trusts God will grow the ministry taking place at, and through, San Pablo.



RAISING UP CHURCH-WORKERS

The importance of raising up church-workers has always been at the forefront of Rev. Dr. Karl Heimer's vision for the work being done at, and through, Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care and its partnering mission-churches. For this reason, **dedicated resources to help educate, train, and support future church-workers and lay leaders, in El Paso and Juarez, is available to these partnering mission-churches.** The history of this educational ministry has helped raise up many leaders within these churches, some to be pastors, others to be deacons or deaconesses, and still others to be missionaries.

In May, four young women completed their studies with the Seminario Concordia "El Redentor" de la Republica Dominicana, all of them graduating with their associate's and being placed into their practicum within the

mission-churches in Anapra, Juarez. While these four women work alongside Rosy Lira, deaconess for three of the partnering mission-churches, two other mission-churches are currently working alongside two men who are receiving instruction to become deacons.

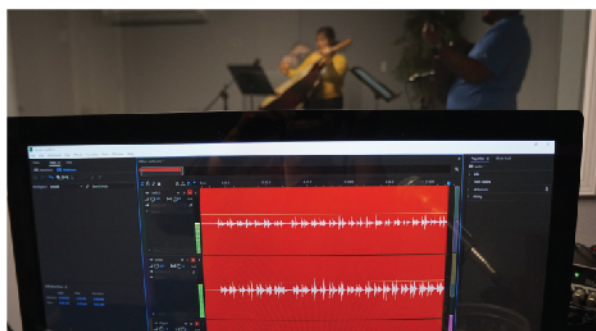
Oscar Rene Vazquez, currently assisting Pastor Jose Hernandez at Iglesia Luterana Santisima Trinidad, westside of Juarez, **started his deacon studies in 2020,** spent the first weekend of June in Mexico City for one of the intensive courses required, and is **set to finish the summer of 2023.** He works side by side with Pastor Hernandez, helping with Bible classes, assisting with Sacraments, and reaching out to mission areas, such as Kilometer 30 and 33, with the Gospel.

For Pastor Misael Tovar, **Alonso Alfredo Holguin** has been a great source of help as they work together to counteract the residual effects of the pandemic within the communities surrounding their mission-churches of Gloria Dei, San Esteban, and San Lorenzo. Alonso helps with distribution of jackets, toys, and food to indigenous families living on the outskirts of where the Chihuahua mission-churches are located.

Thanks to the support, encouragement, and generous gifts of many individuals and churches, these mission-churches continue to receive support to seek out those who have a calling to follow Christ into the ministry field.



RECORDING IN PROGRESS...



Thanks to the 2019-2020 LWML grant, the Adelante! Ministry of YLM has been able to successfully complete the needed renovations for the Music Building. The remodeled building includes a fully equipped recording studio, where **Mariachi San Pablo** began laying down tracks in March. Rhythm tracks of the arranged hymns, liturgy, and other parts of their **upcoming CD have been completed**. Violinists are preparing to start recording next, followed by the trumpet, then voices. These individual components will be mixed down to complete the fifth Mariachi San Pablo CD, a resource for churches needing guidance in liturgy and music.



CULTIVATING YOUNG MUSICIANS

Mariachi San Pablo was invited to share the Gospel mariachi style at the Multiethnic Symposium held at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Of the seven members, three of them are high school graduates; throughout their years of serving through music, Mariachi San Pablo has helped cultivate future servant leaders, with several of those teenage members going on to become church workers who continue to cultivate lessons of serving, uniting and reaching others with the love of Jesus.

"We work hard to cultivate an attitude of love and excellence within the group," Maritza, violinist of Mariachi San Pablo, shared soon after their weekend at St. Louis, "By focusing on recruiting young people, such as middle and high school students, we know there will be a continuous need for new musicians, but it's not about us, but about God using mariachi music to reach people's hearts, both of those who listen and those who play."



BEHIND THE SCENES

Mariachi San Pablo has traveled to twenty states and 109 cities since it's very first concert back in 2001.

"The other members of the team were unable to go to that very first concert in Iowa City," Pastor Stephen Heimer, co-founder of the group, shared at the LWML RMD Convention in Albuquerque, NM first weekend of June, "So it was just Pastor Jose Ruiz and myself."

From that first performance back in 2001, God has opened many opportunities for Mariachi San Pablo, blessing the work and effort put in by those involved, from musicians to family members who come along to help make their witness of God's love possible.

The atmosphere during one of Mariachi San Pablo's performances is full of joy and exuberance, with everyone present enjoying the music, the message, and the way God's love is expressed through every member of the group. For Mariachi San Pablo, it is a joyful reward to see the many smiling faces as they clap along to the lively music; the experience of a Mariachi San Pablo performance is one not easily forgotten.



MERCY FOR THE SIERRA



Two years of drought on top of the pandemic, and now the increased price of food items, has left **many agriculturally dependent indigenous groups living in the sierras of the Chihuahua** mountains struggling to feed their families, with the most vulnerable, young and elderly, **suffering severe malnutrition.**

“The cost of eggs and dairy products has increased so much in the last few months,” Pastor Misael Tovar, shepherd of Gloria Dei, San Lorenzo, and San Esteban, partnering mission-churches located in Chihuahua, shared during a staff meeting, “We’ve been able to help provide for the most vulnerable families, those with little to no income who have young children or elderly family members.”

“Children are dying because they don’t have food,” Pastor Karl Heimer shared soon after sending several dozen pounds of beans to the sierra, **“If we have the resources, and we’re able to partner with someone who has the means to get what is needed to them, then we should do something...so we did.”**



MORE THAN A BACKPACK

A brand-new **backpack full of school supplies help students feel prepared for the challenges of a new school year.** For children in poverty-stricken Anapra, these backpacks are a little more than just being ready for the new school year –it is evidence of their importance to others.

For ten years, year-round donations of backpacks and school supplies are distributed among communities of the partnering mission-churches, both in El Paso and Juarez. San Pablo (El Paso) distributed their backpacks July 15th, with La Santa Biblia and the Chihuahua missions distributing theirs the last week of June.

Thank you for making this possible! 



THE STORY OF A BICYCLE

For children up in the sierras of Chihuahua, walking to and from school can take more than a mile, with the additional challenges of muddy roads on rainy days and snakes on dry days. Working alongside Juarez Mio, YLM reached out to the SOAC in Wisconsin, who had previously donated 100 bicycles in 2020, to share the story of these indigenous children and the impact bicycles will make for them, as well as the teachers.

Partnering with the Wisconsin Orphan Grain Train, **53 bicycles arrived at YLM** the last week of May, where they were directly loaded onto a truck that would then make the trip across the border into Mexico to do the four-hour drive to Chihuahua. We are looking forward to seeing more of the children’s beautiful smiles as they receive these new bikes in the next couple of months.

THE IMPACT OF SERVING OTHERS

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Colossians 3:17

Building houses, teaching God's Word, feeding dozens -these are just some of the ways the Spring/Summer Servant Event Mission Teams have dedicated their time through YLM to love and serve God and others.



March Family of **Christ Lutheran Church** (Ham Lake, MN) spent their week across the border, **building a house for a young family living in a one-room pallet shack**, as well as offering a day of activities for children at La Santa Biblia.



St. Paul Lutheran Church (Mt. Prospect, IL) served in Socorro, a suburb outside of El Paso, **helping a single retired woman** with a leaking and sagging porch. They also planned two days of afterschool activities for children of the neighborhood.



May **Trinity Lutheran Church** (Lincoln, NE) **helped** build a house for an elderly couple taking in **six young family members after the tragic loss of parents**. They also held a five-day VBS at La Santa Biblia, teaching the love of God to over sixty kids and feeding them healthy meals for lunch.



Faith Lutheran Church (Pierre, SD) brought down 29 people, the youngest an 8-year-old boy, to **help build two houses**, lead a 3-day VBS at San Lucas, and distribute over 1,000 Spanish Bibles, children's books, girls' dresses, and little wooden cars.



June **Hope Lutheran Church** (Lubbock, TX) and San Pablo Lutheran Church partnered to bring God's Word to the Lower Valley communities **through a 3-day Summer Bible Camp** held at a nearby community park.



Trinity Lutheran Church (Centralia, IL) worked alongside Pastor Hernandez from Santisima Trinidad to **build a house** in Kilometer 33, using the last day of their mission week to distribute Spanish Bibles and children's books to the surrounding community.



July **Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church** (Sioux Falls, SD) served through YLM, going across the border to **build a house** in Kilometer 33.

MOST Eyeglass Clinic took place the last week of July, serving at three different Juarez locations and **giving out hundreds of pairs of glasses** for reading and distance.



THE 2023 SERVANT EVENT MISSION TRIP SCHEDULE IS OPEN!

Prayerfully consider putting together a **2023 Servant Event Team!** Contact us at (915)858-2588 or luz.soto@ylm.org to get information on different service opportunities available through our Servant Event ministry!

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



"Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." ~1 Peter 4:10

When you become an Amigo and donate monthly, you help feed multiple families, increase resources for missional work in El Paso and across the border in Juarez, bringing God's Word & Love to thousands throughout Mexico and the United States.

Join Amigos to ensure God's ministry continues taking place through YLM!

Yes! I want to become an Amigo with a monthly gift of: ... \$10 ... \$25 ... \$50 ... Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment Options:

Checking Account ... Savings Account

Automatic Bank Draft on ... 1st ... 15th of every month

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Please charge my:

VISA ... MasterCard ... AMEX ... Discover ... On the 1st ... 15th of every month

Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____ / _____

OR please have a YLM representative call for credit card/bank draft information

Scan to go to YLM website to donate monthly and become an Amigo de Ysleta!
WWW.YLM.ORG



Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Host a YLM ZOOM Mission Sunday!

Celebrate and teach about missions by sharing about YLM's work on the border! Schedule a ZOOM presentation or in-person visit for a YLM Speaker to join your event! Contact **Luz M. Soto** at **luz.soto@ylm.org** or **(915) 858-2588**.



Many children in Mexico have to give up school by the time they're 11 due to the expense of continuing education past 6th grade. **Prayerfully consider sponsoring a Stay in School Scholarship (\$700) to help children and youth pursue a brighter future.**

— GET INVOLVED —



Ysleta Lutheran Mission

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Featured Story, pg. 3

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



"...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

~Isaiah 58:10

What an amazing God we have! He continues to sustain us, open up avenues to serve and love Him and others, and fulfill the works He has prepared ahead of time for His children to accomplish. We praise Him, for He is good, no matter the circumstances. Within this Spring/Summer Newsletter, you will see the evidence of a God who uses flawed and weak people to do great and life-changing acts of kindness.

We lift up hands and hearts and voices in praise for what God has done, and continues to do, through every single person who calls on His name. You have been a part of our Ysleta familia, and have been a part of impacting the kingdom of God here on earth and into the eternal life we are all promised through Jesus Christ.



May the God of Everlasting Love bless the rest of your 2022 a hundred-fold, for this is how you have blessed us!

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ at YLM