



Ysleta Lutheran
Mission Human Care

Winter 2023

THE POSADA TRADITION

After three years of Covid restrictions, mission-churches partnering with YLM planned celebrations for their congregations, from worship to the **re-telling of the Nativity story**, fellowship and food, as well as distributing jackets and toys to children, blankets to families, and the assurance of God's gift to us in His Son.



Santísima Trinidad distributed blankets and toys after their Posada, which included food and fellowship, on December 19th



Posada at San Pedro y San Pablo



Gloria Dei in Chihuahua distributed toys to the children of their community



La Santa Biblia in Anapra distributed over 500 toys

JOY DISTRIBUTION 2022

- 1300+ Children's Jackets
- 1000+ Brand new Toys
- 1600+ Full size Blankets
- 1000+ Baby-Kids Blankets



FRUTOS DE GRACIA

Mexico mission-churches are in the finishing stages of establishing a non-profit organization in Mexico to help further the humanitarian work being done within their communities.

"Ysleta Lutheran Mission is excited to be partnering with Frutos de Gracia," Rev. Dr. Karl Heimer, CEO of YLM, shared enthusiastically, "They will continue to be a source of support for their communities and grow in new and different ways."

LOVING THE DISPLACED

In December, El Paso made national news as thousands of **migrants, most of them from Venezuela**, turned themselves into the US Border Patrol before being released into El Paso. Many were housed in shelters while being processed, but soon, lack of space had many living in the streets of downtown El Paso as they waited to be processed.

Members of San Pablo Lutheran Church gathered together after their worship service the second Sunday of the new year to assemble **150 meals**, which consisted of homemade burritos, chips, cookies, and bottled water, **along with over 100 candy bags for children** to distribute to these displaced migrants.



ADELANTE MUSIC STUDENTS

Children and youth not only learn to play an instrument through the Adelante Ministry classes, but are also **given the opportunity to perform, and even travel, with Mariachi San Pablo.**

"Many of these kids and teenagers grow in their playing abilities," Miguel, director of Mariachi San Pablo, shared, "And with time, they become part of Mariachi San Pablo, getting to experience new places and people in their mission to share the Gospel mariachi style."

From eight years of age to fifteen, these **students have been receiving weekly lessons for the last few months, learning to play guitar, vihuela, guitarron and violin.** As the year progresses, plans are being made for these Adelante students to join Mariachi San Pablo in future performances, in El Paso and out of town, and they are needing mariachi suits.

If you would like to **help fund mariachi suits** for new musicians, or **schedule Mariachi San Pablo** to come to your church or community, please call **Miguel Muñoz** at **(915) 858-2588** or e-mail him at **miguel.munoz@ylm.org.**



Mariachi San Pablo and Adelante students played for the San Pablo Christmas Festival



Classes and rehearsals for Adelante musicians and students take place weekly



Adelante students joined Mariachi San Pablo and Zion Lutheran Church

A NEW BATCH OF DEACONESSES



Last May, four women of La Santa Biblia, who began the deaconess virtual three-year program with the seminary in the Dominican Republic in 2019, graduated with an associate's degree. They have been serving at three of the Juarez mission-churches we partner with, helping to provide care and instruction to the congregations.

This February, **four women, along with Pastor Stephen Heimer** from Zion Lutheran Church, made the trip to Mexico City, where they **did their introductory intensive deaconess course**, learning the role of the deaconess within the church and the commitment to God's Word required as they progress through their courses for the next three years.

We are excited to see the growing leadership in the Juarez mission-churches! May God continue to raise up church-workers and leaders among these congregations we have partnered with for over two decades.

EDUCATING & TRAINING

The Mexico deaconesses partnering with YLM who experienced a Days for Girls International workshop are now brainstorming of ways they could help their congregations and communities through the education of the health and protection of girls and women.

In conjunction with the Mexico deaconesses, Kathy Carter, ARNP from Lincoln, NE (Common Thread Ministry), was able to bring these education workshops to a secondary school in Juarez, where three deaconesses were exposed to information they hadn't been taught at school or by their mothers.

"Talking about menstruation has been taboo for many years," a future Mexico deaconess shared after a training session, "My mother never told me about my period, and now, no one talks about menopause."

"We see how vital it is for this education to be done," Rosy Lira, lead deaconess for the Mexico missions, shared before the first training session, "Not just for girls and women in our congregations, but also for women in Juarez prisons, migrants in shelters, and even indigenous women living up in the mountains of Chihuahua."



Erika Tovar, wife to Pastor Misael Tovar, has begun to gather women from the two Chihuahua missions to educate on the Days for Girls curriculum, excited to see how they can work together to further educate girls and women within their communities.

"These are things they deal with daily but are not informed about," she shared as she went through the curriculum, "What a practical and simple way to open new doors for God's love to walk into their lives."



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

The one thing **all Servant Event teams serving through YLM have in common is a desire to be a blessing to others.** Whether it is building a house, preparing over a thousand meals, organizing and teaching hundreds of children, or providing specialized acts of kindness, these teams are ready, eager, and willing to overflow with God's love and mercy unto those they come to serve.

"The beautiful thing about serving," one of the team members stated a comment made by every team in many different ways, "Is that it is not a one-way street. Just as we serve with the intention of being a blessing to others, they in turn serve and bless us too."

These past winter months brought many blessings through six different teams, unique in their team dynamics and mission, yet united in their desire to love God and others through simple, yet beautiful, acts of kindness.

Trinity Lutheran Church (Madison, NE): YLM Dorm bathroom roof

Our Father Lutheran Church (Centennial, CO): 1,000 Thanksgiving meals in El Paso and Juarez

Mayer Lutheran High School (Mayer, MN): two houses in Anapra

Jim and Kathy Carter (Lincoln, NE): workshops and training sessions on feminine hygiene and health care, foot clinics, and built nine bookshelves for YLM's library

Family of Christ Lutheran Church (Ham Lake, MN): built two houses in Anapra

Our Savior Lutheran Church (Minot, ND): built one house in Anapra



Jim and Kathy Carter



Family of Christ Lutheran Church



Trinity Lutheran Church



Mayer Lutheran High School



Our Father Lutheran Church



Our Savior Lutheran Church



THERE'S STILL TIME TO SCHEDULE YOUR 2023 SERVANT EVENT MISSION TRIP!

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

Check out our website,

www.ylm.org

for more amazing news and pictures of ministry taking place through YLM!

CHRISTMAS FAMILY SPONSORS

SAIC, a company in El Paso, **sponsored seven families for Christmas**, providing gifts and clothing for the children, and a generous food box for the families' Christmas celebrations. Parents, also, receive gifts through this sponsorship.

"We've done this for about thirty years with different organizations," one of the SAIC employees explained the day gifts and food boxes were dropped off, "These last twelve years, we've enjoyed partnering with YLM." It was a joy to receive photos of smiling children and parents as they open their gifts from SAIC.



GRATEFUL HEARTS

For the last three years, many volunteers have been faithfully involved in different areas of ministry within YLM and its mission-churches. With the help of ministry partners, the **Grateful Hearts Volunteer Appreciation event** took place at a little event hall on February 16, where these

beautiful people were served, received gifts, had fun with several opportunities to win one of the raffle prizes, and received heartfelt gratitude from the YLM staff. These **amazing volunteers** are the hands and feet who take the support received into the lives of thousands, bringing compassion, care, and love through simple acts of kindness.

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

Gather food, toys, blankets, backpacks, and/or school supplies by **sponsoring a YLM Donation Drive**. We collect donations year-round. For further information on how you can help, contact Maritza Muñoz at maritza.munoz@yml.org or call (915) 858-2588.

GET INVOLVED



"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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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



SHOP FOR YOU AND HELP YLM!

Mission Human Care as your charity of choice on your AmazonSmile and **0.5% of eligible purchases will be donated to YLM.** Set your **AmazonSmile** as the place to order from, and if you order from your phone, scan the QR code for a tutorial to donate from your phone's AmazonSmile.



YLM HAS RECEIVED \$1,016.30 FROM AMAZONSMILE!



You can also set your **AMAZON APP** with amazonsmile. Scan the barcode for a tutorial on how to set up your **amazonsmile app** on your phone to **support YLM** when you shop on the go!





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Featured Story, pg. 4

WINTER 2023

Gold
 Transparency
 2022
Candid.

"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the LORD's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..."

Ephesians 3:16-18, NLT

Winter in El Paso can be harsh for those who are used to over 300 days of sunshine, yet the goodness of God continues to shine through His children.

This 2023 Winter Newsletter has a little taste of the sweetness of God's love in action, the fruit of faith from those whom He calls His, and the joy of planting seeds and bringing the Gospel in word and deed to the thousands of men, women, youth and children living in El Paso and Juarez.

We thank you for becoming a part of the kingdom work taking place through YLM and we're so grateful for the opportunity to praise our God with the awesome works He has prepared for each of us to do.



May God continue to be the ever-present faithfulness as this 2023 continues to unfold and reveal His many blessings upon us all!

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ at YLM