

2024



# MEXICO YOUTH GATHERING



Justification by Faith



With the last Mexico Youth Gathering taking place in 2022, the Mexico Lutheran Synod was determined to bring together 50 youth from their Lutheran churches this year. Through the support of multiple pastors, the LCMS, and organizations such as Cristo Para Todo el Mundo (CPTL) and YLM, 59 youth and 11 adult leaders gathered together in Mexico City at the Centro Luterano from August 1-4 for the “Justification by Faith” Mexico Youth Gathering.

It was a joy to have your support! You made it possible for YLM to bring 5 youth from three of our Cd. Juarez mission-churches. Michelle Lira (La Santa Biblia-Anapra), Javier Valadez (San Lucas -Anapra), Cecy Gaitan (Santísima Trinidad -KM30), Fernando Manzano (Santísima Trinidad -KM30), and Genesis Balbuena (Santísima Trinidad -KM30) were accompanied by Luz Soto (YLM/San Pablo -El Paso) as their leader.

For three of the youth, the flight from Cd. Juarez to Mexico City was their first time on a plane. Michelle was especially comforting and helpful as she explained to Javier, Cecy and Genesis what would be happening at take-off and landing, which helped calm their nerves at this new experience.

The late arrival to Mexico City was no problem, as Pastor Neftalí arrived within minutes of the team exiting the airport.

[Read more on our website!](#)





## From Learning to Playing

The organization and coordination of this Mexico Youth Gathering was evident from the very beginning. Meals served by adult volunteers, among them Pastor Isaac Garcia, president of the Mexico Lutheran Synod.

Morning devotions began with a responsive Psalm reading, Luther's morning prayer, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and ended with a hymn of praise.

Each day had a different session, with three of the Mexico pastors presenting on "Sin and its Consequences", "Christ and His Forgiveness", and "The Christian Life". These pastors were engaging and easily connected with the youth, encouraging their involvement through questions, skits, team-work, and demonstrations.

A presentation was made by Pastor Samuel Perez on the multiple opportunities for church-work through the Mexico Lutheran Synod, which interested several of the youth present.



**"It was a beautiful experience and a privilege to be able to go and interact with other youth who love and serve the LORD." ~ Michelle**



## Making Connections

For Javier Valadez, attending the Mexico Youth Gathering was more than an opportunity to connect with other Lutheran youth from Mexico; it meant learning more about his desire to become a missionary pastor.

Conversations with the Synod president, and other pastors, gave Javier needed information concerning the seminary process, and in the next few days, he's been praying for clarity on his next step.

Please pray for him as well!



## Strengthening Faith through Fellowship

Fun activities coordinated by Dani Garcia, a deaconess with one of the Mexico City churches, helped break the ice, creating multiple opportunities for the youth to connect and build new friendships.

Fernando, a quiet and serious young man of 15, was smiling and laughing, and by the end of day one, had already made friends with several boys from a church in Tijuana.

By Saturday, which involved an outing to a National Park, the youth were easily interacting through conversation, play, and fellowship.

**Read more on our website!**