

**Summer / Fall 2019**



**Ysleta Lutheran  
Mission Human Care**



## Bringing Comfort to El Paso

The devastating events of August 3rd, 2019 left the communities of El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico, shaken and hurting. So many struggled with overwhelming feelings of disbelief, fear, confusion, anger, and hopelessness over the atrocious actions of one man, which left painful consequences to be dealt with by families, friends, and our community as a whole. Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) along with Zion Lutheran Church from El Paso, requested for the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry to deploy a team of their comfort dogs for the purpose of helping El Paso through the aftermath of violence, and help start the painful road towards healing.

It was a painful yet comforting two weeks, working in partnership seven teams on the first week, and six teams the second. Others experienced the comfort offered by these Golden Retrievers as we went from memorials to support

*YLM Communication Specialist, Luz M. Soto, praying with young girl at Walmart Candlelight Vigil*



groups to hospitals, spending hours with staff, patients, visitors, and family. To see the way these beautiful dogs, so calm and accepting, helped people let go of the hurt they were feeling was to witness a miracle. It truly was so beautiful to experience as strangers cried and prayed together, hugging each other, and finally smiling as they were filled with a sense of hope once more.

Together with Zion Lutheran, YLM made sure this act of kindness was experienced by as many people who needed it. From the Mayor of El Paso to elementary schools and youth soccer teams, they brought smiles while taking on the weight of the pain, hurt, guilt and fear so many were still struggling with days after, giving us the opportunity to share God's love through words of encouragement and prayer. We are so

*A visit to a local elementary school brought smiles to children directly affected by the tragic shooting*



grateful to God for bringing our community of El Paso so much hope, love and comfort –not just through the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, but also through each other. During these two weeks, we witnessed overwhelming kindness changing lives every day.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support, and know we at YLM are committed, along with you, to continue

changing the lives of the people of El Paso and Juarez through simple acts of kindness.

*"You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light."*

2 Samuel 22:29



*Receiving comfort during a Candlelight Vigil outside the Walmart where the tragic shooting occurred*



*Coach of local soccer team fundraising outside the Walmart on August 3rd praying with LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry team*



# A Summer of Vacation Bible School

Three of YLM's mission sister-churches were blessed multiple times this summer with amazing week-long Vacation Bible Schools!



**Trinity Lutheran Church** from Lincoln, Nebraska taught about God's love to over 60 kids at Iglesia Luterana de La Santa Biblia in Rancho Anapra, Juarez. This last week of April was filled with fun, music, and Bible-based learning for these loved children.



The first week of June, **summer intern Greta Wiederhold** organized and led VBS at San Pablo Lutheran Church in El Paso, teaching about the greatest Superhero of all – Jesus Christ! Over 20 kids from the surrounding community learned how amazing our Savior is.



Over 70 kids at Iglesia Luterana San Lucas in Anapra, Juarez, experienced God's great love through Bible stories, crafts, music, and dance thanks **Zion Lutheran Church** from Maryland Heights, Missouri who spent the last week of June with these joy-filled children.



Flying down from Vancouver, Canada, a Servant Event team of eight adults from **Hillside Christian Church** shared how when Life is Good... God is Good. Over 60 kids at Iglesia Luterana San Lucas in Anapra, Juarez, spent the last week of July immersed in Bible skits, music, dance, and crafts.

## Many thanks to our 2019 Summer Interns!



*Greta Wiederhold from Michigan spent the month of June at YLM. She led VBS at San Pablo Lutheran Church and helped with multiple tasks at YLM.*



*Ben Scheffler and Sophia Coke, both from Michigan, spent three months learning the ins and outs of every area of Mercy offered by YLM, developing a new program –Ambassadors for YLM.*



*Jayne Kurpius from Minnesota spent seven weeks helping at YLM, from bookkeeping to unloading donations, she was a great blessing to everyone.*



# Adelante Ministries receives LWML Grant

Thanks to an LWML grant submitted by Zion Lutheran Church of El Paso, the mission of the *Adelante Ministries* at YLM to CULTIVATE musical ability and Christian leadership, REACH out to others in love and with God's saving Gospel, and UNITE communities, families, generations, and races in celebration and worship will be able to continued and grow.



Music classes for guitar, guitartron and violin are offered at YLM in El Paso. Volunteer music instructors needed for this wonderful ministry to further develop music and church leaders.

"We'll start by growing the education area of the music ministry," Miguel Muñoz, *Adelante Ministries* Co-Director and Director of *Mariachi San Pablo*, outlined the usefulness of the grant, "From there, we can grow everything else."

## Adelante Ministries Music Classes

Music classes for guitar, piano and trumpet will begin at Anapra, Juarez this fall. To support this ministry of further developing music and church leaders in Mexico, donate to the Mission Programs and specify Music in Anapra. Funds or in-kind donations are needed for instruments and class materials.



## Mariachi San Pablo on the Move



On July 3rd, Mariachi San Pablo and youth from Zion Lutheran Church was invited by Faith Lutheran Church to performed at the Las Cruces, NM Electric Parade on July 3rd.



Mariachi San Pablo was invited to return to Zion Lutheran Church for their annual *Back to School with Jesus by Our Side* church service.



In response to the tragic events of August 3rd, Zion Lutheran Church hosted a Prayer Service, along with Mariachi San Pablo. The community came together to grieve, pray, and celebrate Jesus' victory over death.



Mariachi San Pablo traveled to Santa Fe, NM for the Santa Fe Fiesta Weekend on September 6th-8th, where they did community outreach and provided music for Immanuel Lutheran Church's Sunday worship.



Bring Mariachi San Pablo to your worship services or evangelism, outreach, and community care events! Contact Miguel Muñoz at [mariachi@ylm.org](mailto:mariachi@ylm.org) or (915) 858-2588.



# SHELTER

## Building, Repairing, Teaching

Summer months are very active months at YLM. From May to August, every week is scheduled for a Servant Event team to travel from faraway places so they may share God's love in unique ways. This summer, six new houses were built in Anapra, Mexico, repairs and an addition were done to the home of a single mother of five in Horizon City, Texas, and a much needed paint job for the inside of YLM's Dormitory was completed by a small team of four. In between all that hard labor, there was teaching of VBS, distribution of food, assembling and distribution of backpacks, distribution of Bibles, and many other acts of kindness.



*Six houses were built across the border this summer by several Servant Event teams*



*Repairs were made to a single mother's home in Horizon City*



*Several Servant Event teams organized and led Vacation Bible School in Anapra*



*217 backpacks were filled with school supplies by a first-time YLM Servant Event team*

Thank you for being a blessing to so many in El Paso, Horizon City, and Juarez through these beautiful acts of kindness!

- Faith Lutheran Church from Pierre, SD
- Trinity Lutheran Church from Centralia, IL
- Zion Lutheran Church from Maryland Heights, MO
- Peace with Christ Lutheran Church from Aurora, CO
- St. John Lutheran Church from Covina, CA
- Ascension Lutheran Church from El Paso, TX
- Hillside Christian Church from Vancouver, Canada
- Messiah Lutheran Church from Plano, TX



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

# 6th Annual YLM Back-To-School



On August 17th, under the sprawling branches of the tree in the center of the YLM campus, Rev. Dr. Karl Heimer led hundreds in prayer on behalf of our community, remembering the families and victims of the August 3rd mass shootings. With the blessing of life in mind, the next two hours were fast paced and filled with smiles, kindness and compassion as over 907 backpacks filled with school and hygiene supplies were given out, along with 313 food baskets and 236 snack bags. We had

volunteers from the Zaragoza Rotary Club of El Paso and Ascension Lutheran Church in El Paso working side by side to help with all the different distributions happening simultaneously.



*907 backpacks with school supplies and hygiene kits were distributed*



*Hygiene packs filled with necessary items, as well as extra, such as underwear, t-shirts, and socks*



*Food baskets with essential items were given to over 300 families*



*Several health related organizations set up booths and gave out information on services offered to the community*

Thank you for supporting the YLM's Back-To-School Distribution! We continue to gratefully receive donations of backpacks, school and hygiene supplies to distribute in Juarez, as well as for the 2020 distributions.

## Toys for Children



Christmas is just around the corner! Year-round donations of toys, blankets, jackets, and hygiene items have been packaged in preparation for the annual Christmas Toy Distribution in December. We are still a few short months away from the much anticipated event—we're asking for your help to make this event possible by donating towards the Christmas Toy Distribution.



Contact us at (915) 858-2588 or e-mail us at [ylm@ylm.org](mailto:ylm@ylm.org) for more information on the greatest need for this seasonal program.

# GET INVOLVED

**Gather food and supplies** by organizing a donation drive. We collect donations year-round; the items especially needed are food, school/hygiene supplies, toys, jackets and blankets. For further information on how you can help with this wonderful ministry, contact us at [yml@yml.org](mailto:yml@yml.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.

**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 [yml@yml.org](mailto:yml@yml.org) or (915) 858-2588.



We are truly blessed with every person who supports YLM's mission to change lives every day through simple acts of kindness. Donations of all kinds help us continue helping others in need of kindness, compassion, and mercy. Prayerfully consider becoming an "Amigo de Ysleta" by signing up on our website, [www.yml.org](http://www.yml.org), to donate \$10 or more automatically every month.

**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.



For all Amazon shoppers –you can choose Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care as your charity of choice! This is an easy and hassle-free way to support our mission in changing lives every day through simple acts of kindness. All you have to do is make sure you shop through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will give 0.05% of the price of eligible items to YLM.

**Host a YLM Mission Sunday** where your church family can 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@yml.org](mailto:luz.soto@yml.org) or (915) 315-6704.



**Save the Date!** Our 2020 YLM Gala Event will be held on May 15th!

**LEARN MORE AND CONTACT US AT [WWW.YLM.ORG](http://WWW.YLM.ORG)**



**Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care**

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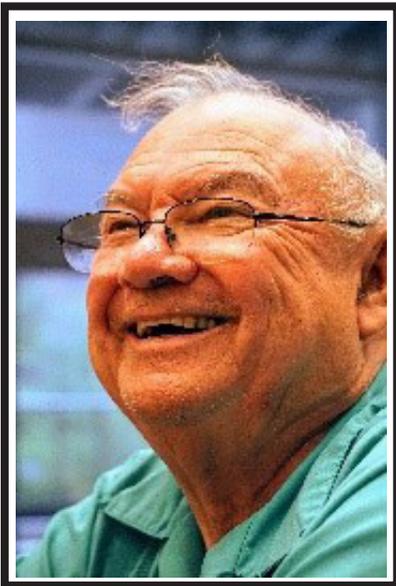
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**Featured Story:**  
Bringing Comfort,  
Pg. 2



## SUMMER/FALL 2019

*"The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

**Deuteronomy 31:8**

Your prayer and support during one of the most difficult months our community has experienced were felt and very much appreciated. Thanks to your continued support, YLM has been able to be present within the community, being a source of comfort and kindness as our community's healing process continues in the days to come. Within the pages of this Summer/Fall 2019 Newsletter, you'll find some snippets of all that's occurred the last four months.

We are committed to continue "changing lives every day through simple acts of kindness," and are truly blessed for your continued prayers, participation, and stalwart support of our mission.

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