

Missions



Rekindled Fellowship and Renewed Mission



For more than 30 years, YLM has maintained a connection with the Mexican Lutheran Synod (**SLM**). While this relationship has experienced seasons of difficulty and, at times, stagnation, God's timing has proven perfect.

These past two years, we have witnessed a remarkable and deeply meaningful reconciliation. What began as renewed dialogue has now grown into **genuine partnership, mutual trust, and joyful fellowship.**

Today, congregations YLM has funded, supported, and partnered with throughout our border region have been **restored to full fellowship and pulpit sharing** with the SLM. Our brothers in the SLM, and the Church in Chihuahua, have demonstrated great humility, enthusiasm, and love for us as we celebrate this rekindled fellowship.

It is evident God has preserved this relationship for His purpose and glory. This **renewed partnership** brings great **hope for the future.** Soon, **pastors graduated** from the Seminary "El Redentor" in the Dominican Republic, and **ordained by the Mexican Synod**, will be **called to serve** our congregations **in Ciudad Juárez.** These are more than pastoral assignments: they are signs of God's provision and continued commitment to His people.

San Pablo Continues Ministry

Ministry continues at San Pablo Lutheran Church with **faithful support** from **Rev. Misael Tovar**, who travels from Chihuahua once to twice each month to **lead worship** and **administer Holy Communion.** The congregation has also been blessed by **pastors** who **come alongside** San Pablo through YLM's Servant Event teams, ensuring **Word and Sacrament** ministry **remains present and active.**



Mexico Youth Gathering 2026

Please prayerfully consider giving toward the **\$5,000 needed** to sponsor **6 youth** and **2 adult chaperones** to attend the **2026 Mexico Youth Gathering.** Your support will provide an **unforgettable opportunity** for these youth to **grow in faith, fellowship, and leadership.**



Music

Proclaiming Christ Through Song



Throughout the Christmas season, Mariachi San Pablo filled churches and neighborhoods across the Borderland with **music proclaiming** the birth of Christ. Familiar hymns, played mariachi style, **invited people** of all **ages, languages, and cultures** to **hear the Gospel** through joyful sound, shared tradition, and worship together.

During Las Posadas, Mariachi San Pablo **walked alongside** congregations as families sang, prayed, and welcomed the story of Mary and Joseph. Children led the way, voices joined in response, **turning streets and sanctuaries** into **places of praise**. These moments reminded everyone present **Christ comes to dwell** among His people, **bringing hope and joy**.

On Christmas Eve, Mariachi San Pablo joined San Pablo Lutheran Church in worship, where **music carried** the message of the coming Emmanuel. The sounds of strings, trumpets, and voices **drew hearts together** around Scripture and song.



"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music..."

Psalm 98:4



Two members of Mariachi San Pablo traveled to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to assist with the Posada Chapel, joined by students and long-time partners. Through music, future church workers **experienced a tradition** rooted in **faith, mission, and joy**, carrying the message of Christmas farther than expected.

Through every note and every hymn, Mariachi San Pablo **proclaims** a simple truth: **Christ has come, and His love is meant to be shared**. This Christmas season, music became **a bridge**, connecting **generations, cultures, and hearts** in praise.



Best Practices in Ministry, Feb 12-14

Mariachi San Pablo joined over 2,000 church workers in Phoenix, AZ for the first time!

*Forward
Through
Faith*



Listen
and
Share!

*Adelante
En La
Fe*



Mariachi San Pablo will be at the LCMS Convention in Phoenix, AZ on July 18-23!



Mariachi San Pablo will be at the Hispanic Missionary League Convention in Irving, CO on July 28-31!

During the Christmas season and into early January, YLM shared joy and care with families on both sides of the US/Mexico border through the distribution of toys, blankets, and jackets, made possible because of the generosity of organizations, congregations, and individuals across the US. Through the **2025 Joy Distribution**, a **Mercy Ministry** of YLM, more than **400 toys**, and **250 children's jackets**, were taken to mission churches in Anapra, Ciudad Juárez, and Chihuahua, with over **100 children** gathering at Iglesia Luterana La Santa Biblia to receive gifts during their celebration of Epiphany.

In El Paso, San Pablo Lutheran Church welcomed families for their annual Christmas Festival, where **119 toys** were given to children who had registered ahead of time, and **300 quilts** were distributed to families seeking warmth during the winter months.

These moments were filled with laughter, grateful smiles, and the simple joy of children receiving gifts often not possible otherwise. Each Joy Distribution, whether in El Paso or across the border, reflects a **shared commitment** to **serve with compassion** and **faith**, reminding families they are **seen, loved, and supported** through the generosity of **God's people working together**.



Many Hands, One Mission

We give thanks for every volunteer, congregation, and supporter who made this season of service possible, touching many lives touched through simple acts of kindness shared in Jesus' name. **Our Father Lutheran** prepared and distributed **750 Thanksgiving meals** in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. **Six homes were built** for families in Anapra and KM30 by **Peace Lutheran, King of Kings, Mayer Lutheran High School** and **Family of Christ**. **Faith** and **Messiah Lutheran** completed **renovation projects** on the YLM campus.

MOST Ministries distributed **250 water filters** to families in Anapra and KM30, providing access to clean water. Spiritual growth remained central to the season, with a four-day Women's and Children's Bible Study **servicing more than 160 women, youth, and children**, thanks to the **LWML Utah-Idaho** first-time team.

Thank you to these Brothers and Sisters in Christ who **served, built, and walked alongside** neighbors on both sides of the border.

2026 Servant Event Calendar Open!

Contact us at (915) 858-2588 or luz.soto@ylm.org for information.

THANK YOU!

- MOST Ministries** -Water/Hygiene Clinic Team
- Faith Lutheran Church** -Branson, MO
- Peace Lutheran Church** -New Berlin, WI
- Our Father Lutheran Church** -Centennial, CO
- King of Kings Lutheran Church** -Cedar Rapids, IA
- Mayer Lutheran High School** -Mayer, MN
- Messiah Lutheran Church** -Boerne, TX
- LWML Utah-Idaho**
- Family of Christ Lutheran Church** -Ham Lake, MN





Ysleta Lutheran Mission

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2026 Winter Newsletter



We praise God for the ways He continues to work through you and **Your Lutheran Mission**. Across the borderland, **Missions, Music, and Mercy** remain at the heart of our ministry. Teams **serve alongside** local churches in El Paso and Cd. Juárez, families **receive care and support**, and the **Gospel is shared** through **presence, service, and song**. **Faithful stewardship** and **deep commitment** continues to be YLM's investment into communities where **hope is needed** and **faith is growing**.

As this new year unfolds, we invite you to remain part of the mission to *change lives every day through simple acts of kindness*. Through **your prayers, support, and involvement**, God's Kingdom will continue to grow in the borderland and into eternity. Let us keep walking forward in faith, **trusting God to multiply what is offered in love**.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ at YLM

The following options exists to donate to YLM:

- Mail a **check payable** to **Ysleta Lutheran Mission** at 301 S. Schutz Drive, El Paso, TX 79907
- **Donate online** through our website: **www.ylm.org**
- Designate **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to YLM by March 31st
- Donate through **VANCO**: call (915) 858-2588
- Scan the **QR code** to become an **Amigos de Ysleta** to support our on-going ministry!
- Give us a call about **Legacy Giving!**



YLM welcomes **stock donations** to support our impactful mission.

Call 915-858-2588 for more information.