

The Hands that Lift YLM



With April being Volunteer Appreciation Month, YLM joyfully celebrated their 36 local volunteers from El Paso/Cd. Juárez, who give their time and talents to this ministry year-round. Volunteers strengthen YLM in essential ways; serving in housekeeping, groundskeeping, Cornucopia Thrift Shop, weekly and annual distributions, Lutheran Prison Ministry, Mariachi San Pablo, music instruction, and office administration are among the areas where they contribute towards our mission.



This year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner brought these faithful workers together for an evening of gratitude, good food, gifts, lively raffles, and shared community. YLM is deeply grateful for every volunteer who helps make ministry possible on the border. If you feel called to serve, we would be glad to welcome you into our community of joyful workers.

2026 Servant Event Calendar Open!

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

thank you!

Our Savior Lutheran Church
(Minot, ND)

Trinity Lutheran Church
(Lincoln, NE)

Peace Lutheran Church
(Grand Island, NE)

Campus Lutheran Church
(Columbia, MO)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Mt. Prospect, IL)

Hales Corners Lutheran Church
(Hales Corners, WI)

Serving. Building. Growing.

Fifty-seven short-term missionaries from across the US joined YLM to serve families and congregations in the Borderland this spring.



In Anpra, volunteers helped raise the long-awaited church building for La Santa Biblia (*Read More on Page 2*). In Kilometer 30, homes were built for 3 families facing hardship, with Gospel care offered through VBS, meals, and distributions. Two mobile homes in Agua Dulce were repaired, and the altar at San Pablo Lutheran Church renovated.



Ask. Seek. Knock. Help YLM Meet the Greatest Need

For 43 years, YLM has witnessed God's promise in Matthew 7:7: "Ask... seek... knock..." Families fed, homes repaired, the Gospel shared, and hundreds serving through YLM's hands-on mission work in El Paso and Cd. Juarez.

With a history of summer giving slowing down, leaving a funding gap needed to keep our ministries strong, we're asking for your help to provide essential resources, equip "ground on the boots" missionaries, and keep the Gospel at the heart of all we do.

We trust God to provide—and believe He will do so through partners like you. Will you give today and join us in asking, seeking, and knocking in faith?

Scan QR Code to make a gift towards YLM's Greatest Need!



Lutheran Prison Ministry

Help place God's Word into the hands of those who need it.

We need English and Spanish Large Print Bibles.

You can purchase and ship directly to YLM through www.biblesinbulk.com

Middle of Answered Prayer

Fifteen years ago, a ministry in Anapra was entrusted to YLM; a property where children were fed and the Gospel shared. When the buildings became unsafe, the congregation cleared the land, renamed themselves Iglesia Luterana La Santa Biblia, and prayed for a true church home.

Years of delays followed; permits, legal hurdles, COVID, but the congregation remained faithful. They worshiped outdoors in summer, inside a storage container in winter, and slowly improved the site while waiting on God's timing.

"God doesn't forget us."

Deaconess Rosy Lira.

This year, the long-prayed-for answer arrived. With support from Family of Christ (MN) and a skilled team from Our Savior (ND), walls rose around the concrete pad the congregation had poured years earlier.

By week's end, the new building was dedicated with worship, music, and celebration. Today, La Santa Biblia gathers in a safe, welcoming space where families hear the Gospel and faith continues to grow.



Mexico Youth Gathering 2026



Please prayerfully consider giving toward the **\$5,000** needed to sponsor 5 youth and 2 adult chaperones to attend the **2026 Mexico Youth Gathering** in Mexico City.

You will provide an unforgettable opportunity for these youth to grow in faith, fellowship, and leadership.



Rekindled Fellowship *and* Renewed Mission

YLM and the Mexico Lutheran Synod (SLM) are entering a renewed season of unity and shared mission. Congregations long supported by YLM are now fully connected again with the SLM, bringing strong momentum for ministry.

Pastors trained at *El Redentor* Seminary, and ordained by the SLM, will soon serve congregations in Ciudad Juárez and Anapra, clear signs of God's provision and care.

Scan QR to give toward **Missions: Pastoral Support**, strengthening congregations, expanding Gospel outreach, and shining Christ's bright light along the border.



Rev. Misael Tovar



Rev. Guillermo Leyva



Rev. Oscar Saavedra

Mariachi-Style Gospel on the Move



This spring, Mariachi San Pablo (MSP) shared Christ-centered music, bringing together cultures, congregations, and communities while sharing the Gospel mariachi style.

A first-time appearance at Best Practices in Ministry (Phoenix, AZ), their music drew crowds, sparked conversations, and connected with church workers from across North America. Soon after, MSP received another invitation soon after arriving.

The second weekend of April, the group traveled to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brandon, Florida, to celebrate five years of Hispanic ministry in their congregation and 100 years of Hispanic ministry within the LCMS.

Immanuel's story is one of renewal: once near closing, the congregation embraced Hispanic ministry, called Pastor Miguel Sanabria, and has since grown into a vibrant, multicultural community representing Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and other Central and South American countries.



Pictures provided by Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Brandon, FL

MSP played for their bilingual worship service, joining the congregation's *Latin Fiesta* afterwards, where booths, traditional foods, and more than twenty children dressed in festive attire shared the uniqueness of each culture to all in attendance. On Monday, MSP led music for Immanuel's morning chapel, with students from kinder to eighth grade sharing in their joy as mariachi-style worship filled the space.

The visit left a deep impression on both MSP and Immanuel. Leaders have already extended an invitation for MSP to return and are exploring opportunities for a future Florida tour. The momentum continues, for in two weeks, MSP will travel again, this time to St. Louis, Missouri where they will participate in the LCMS Multi-Ethnic Symposium for the third year in a row.

From Phoenix to Florida to St. Louis, God is using Mariachi San Pablo to build relationships, strengthen congregations, and proclaim the Gospel across cultures!



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2026 Spring Newsletter

Spring brings a fresh sense of renewal to the borderland, where we see God opening doors for new opportunities across **Your Lutheran Mission's Mercy, Music, and Missions**. As we move into the summer months, teams prepare to serve, families receive care, and music continues to carry the Gospel into places where hope is needed.

We are stepping into a season of growth, possibility, and exciting beginnings, and are grateful you continue to walk with us in this mission that changes lives every day through simple acts of kindness.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ at YLM



As YLM's ministry and supporter base continue to grow, we are transitioning to a **new donor management platform, Bloomerang**, which will give us stronger tools for communication, engagement, and long-term relationship management!

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.