



**Latin American Lutheran Mission**

# CLARION

Vol. 78, No.1

“You shall be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

SUMMER 2016

## LALM ANNUAL MEETING

The Latin America Lutheran Mission Annual Meeting will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterloo, IA, on Sunday, September 25, 2016, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The business meeting, which will begin at 3:30 pm and led by the president of LALM, will feature reports from LALM Director Pastor Moises Mendez and the ELCM pastors. After the business meeting, an activity for the younger children is being planned. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm followed by special entertainment for those who can stay until 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm; an offering for LALM's general fund will be taken at that time.

During our time that afternoon and evening, we hope to have an artist painting a picture related to the work of LALM and the ELCM. The artist said that he will prayerfully consider this opportunity and, if he accepts, he will do it pro bono, wanting any donations going to the work of LALM and ELCM.

In order to help plan for the meal, tickets are being sold in advance: \$5 per person (over 12), \$3 per person (6-12), and free (6 and under). There will be a few tickets available at the door. All proceeds from the ticket sales will go to the LALM general fund. Tickets will be available by contacting Brian and/or Candy Smith: 6938 Boggs Rd., Waterloo, IA 50703, phone 319-235-1382, email: bmsmith33@hotmail.com.

The address for Ascension Lutheran Church is 2211 Maynard Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50701. The phone number of the church in case of an emergency that Sunday is (319) 233-1358 or call Brian Smith at (319) 230-7714. (*Map on last page of this issue.*)

For those coming from the Minneapolis area, it is about a four-hour drive. The choices of roads are Hwy 55/52 from Minneapolis and then follow Hwy 63 from Rochester, MN. It is mostly four lanes except from Stewartville, MN, to New Hampton, IA. Speeds are from 55-65 mph. The Avenue of the Saints (I-35 to Hwy 218) from Minneapolis, MN, to Waterloo, IA, is four lanes all the way. Speeds range from 65-70 mph.

For those who are wishing to spend Sunday night with someone in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area to help with the cost of attending the annual meeting, please contact Brian and/or Candy Smith as soon as possible so that they can find a place for you. If you prefer to stay in a motel, there will be a list of motels available.

Please come and enjoy a time of fellowship and learning as you hear of the work that the Lord is doing through His people. Be willing to support LALM as it partners with the ELCM and the workers in Guatemala by being willing to uphold the work in your daily prayers for the next year as well as giving a special monetary offering on September 25 to the LALM general fund to help with whatever needs might arise this coming year.

**Sunday, September 25, 2016**  
**ASCENSION Lutheran Church**  
**2211 Maynard Ave., Waterloo, IA**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

*“I am with you always to the close of the age.”*



*Pastors Moises and Mariana Mendez*

Special greetings to all those who share in the calling to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. We continue with our efforts to work with the men and women of good will in the work of the Lord.

As I write we have just completed a planning meeting in Nuevo Laredo with the leaders of the women’s movement of the Lutheran Church of Mexico. They are preparing to bring together the women for their annual summer conference for all the churches. There is a contagious spirit of optimism and excitement for growth among them and we are trusting that the Holy Spirit will be active in this important ministry. We are aware that in the work of the Lord there are peaks and valleys but God has something very special on the horizon under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are blessed with many resources, the spirit’s presence, and the willingness of all those trusting in our

Heavenly Father. It is tremendously interesting to observe that even as the border area lives through times of crisis which has made life difficult for the majority of the population, nevertheless we can see the hand of God fortifying his people. We experience amidst these realities that God is with us. The Lord continues to say, “I am with you always to the close of the age.”

We would like to invite all who read this newsletter to experience what the Lord is doing on the border and in Mexico. This border is like other borders in its insecurities and uncertainties. It has always been this way and this is the place where God has called us to shine the light of Christ and to demonstrate God’s great love, to experience that our faith is in our living God.

I want to express our gratitude to those who make this ministry possible: the board of directors of the Latin American Lutheran Mission; all those who give month by month sending in their gifts of love so that we may minister effectively; to local organizations, too, like the food banks which bless us every week with resources for the poor and hungry; to churches who share generously of their time and resources such as school kits for children, sunday school materials, Bibles, and much more for outreach. And, finally, thanks be to God for all his blessings. He has never abandoned us. With our fellow believers we know that together the work of God goes forward and blesses us so we can be a blessing.

God Bless each one of you. In God’s Peace,  
*Pastor Moises Mendez, LALM Director*

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## CALVARY LUTHERAN OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH HELPS AT EL CENIZO

Every summer a large group from Calvary Lutheran volunteers with the mission on the border. For sixteen years they have done so with their three pastors. They have enjoyed fellowshiping and working with the Lutheran work along the Texas/Mexico border. This summer 45 volunteers concentrated their efforts in the little Community of El Cenizo just east of Laredo. Pastor Mariana Mendez pastors the congregation of “Living Water” Lutheran of El Cenizo. They have given their best efforts in spite of the hottest temperatures so far this year, and a very inefficient air conditioning system.

*by Pastor Moises Mendez*



*Calvary Lutheran at work with “Living Water” Lutheran.*

# SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MEXICO

The twice yearly meeting of the pastors and leaders of the E.L.C.M. was a reminder of one of our on-going concerns: the aging pastors. Two of their senior leaders were not in attendance because of serious illness which had them hospitalized: Pastor Jesus Velazquez of Torreon, and Pastor Eduardo Aguillon of El Potosi. Please pray for these dear brothers in the Lord and if possible help us financially to help them at this time. These are elderly gentlemen who have as many as 50 years of service to the church. Unfortunately the E.L.C.M. as an organization is not able to provide benefits for its retirement aged pastors.

*Lutheran pastors at semi-annual conference in Saltillo.*



## ON THE BORDER

Activities here on the border continue developing well. The missions in Nuevo Laredo, MX are growing with special activities for the children and youth. The annual womens' conference, always a high point, is planned for later this summer.



*Excavation near "Living Water" Lutheran.*



*Pastors who help with the food distribution program.*



*Confirmation and First Communion at Bethel Lutheran of Laredo.*

***In January the mission offered a training seminar for new leaders. Dr. Giacomo Casese taught on "The Lordship of Christ" as part of a program of continuing education for leaders.***



*Group in attendance at training seminar and Dr. Giacomo Casese.*



*E.L.C.M. women plan the womens' summer conference.*

# SAINT JOHN MISSION SOCIETY OF RURAL NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA

St. John Mission Society of North Branch, Minnesota which has made many mission trips to the L.A.L.M. and the churches of Mexico arrived with another group of eager volunteers for four days of service in March. Among their projects they repaired the home of a single mother who had suffered a severe burn accident. They also presented three VBS for children in three different areas of Nuevo Laredo, MX. They brought donated food to each location. Most importantly they joyfully brought the Gospel message.



*Kids at VBS.*



*Repairing Maria Ayala's home.*



*Pastor Zeller and helpers buy food for distribution.*

# ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

During 2016 we benefited by another major delivery from orphan grain train which receives and transports donated materials to places of need. They also delivered 2 loads of food to the mission. With these donations we were able to bless 35 different ministries in Mexico: 25 Lutheran Ministries and 10 other Evangelical Ministries.

1,600 families were blessed with clothing, shoes, food, jackets, and the word of God.

Five locations that feed children each day Monday through Friday after school received, as well. With the food they give the children biblical instruction, too.

Two hospitals including General Hospital of Nuevo Laredo, MX and the Mexican Red Cross received medical equipment, crutches, walkers, first aid materials and more. The nutrition program called "The Blessing" on the border, through the help of our Mexican co-workers brought material and spiritual food to thousands each week.



*Unloading the donated food.*



## THANK YOU BRAKEBUSH

Thanks to the Brakebush Brothers Foundation we have been able to acquire a used but in good condition truck with an enclosed box to carry heavier loads to outlying areas. Thanks to this vehicle we can now deliver in one load four entire weeks of donated food. 10,800 lbs of food items are distributed monthly to 142 families and special supplements for the elderly. We thank the Lord for the Brakebush family's response to this need. Moved with love for their neighbors to the south, in this time of economic crisis, many, many families will receive the groceries they need.



*LALM President Ron Berry & the new vehicle.*



*Unloading is a big job.*

***If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.***

1 Corinthians 12:26

## CHILDRENS' OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL AND THE L.A.L.M

For four years we have partnered with the Childrens' Outreach International to help 23 Guatemalan children with scholarships to a Lutheran school that they might know the Word of God, they and their families, and have a much better education.

C.O.I. started out helping 13 children but each year that number has grown. Each child's scholarship guarantees good grades, each becomes the first member of their family to attend a Lutheran school. If you would like to sponsor a child in this program you can do it for \$20./month for 10 months (the school year in Guatemala). Thanks to all who have already sponsored a child.



*School children.*

## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY WITH THE ELDERLY

Another program where LALM partners with an agency in Guatemala is called "Fullness Of Life", taking care of the elderly. This ministry is full of blessings for care-givers and cared-for. There is great happiness in giving, and inner peace knowing that one has fulfilled a biblical responsibility. If you care for the elderly you won't fear being abandoned in old age yourself.

***"...he who waters liberally will himself be watered liberally."***

Prov. 11:25



*Learning how to care for the elderly.*



*House church leaders of Nuevo Laredo, MX*

## NEEDS AT THE BORDER

- ☞ With a donation of \$200. You can help a child attend a Lutheran school in Guatemala with uniform, materiales and tutoring.
- ☞ For \$200. You can encourage an elderly and poor husband and wife to receive a large bag of staple food every other month. LALM will send your donation to the agency in charge.
- ☞ Pastors in Mexico and Guatemala need computers or laptops in good condition. Contact Pr. Moises Mendez if you know of a company upgrading their computer system.
- ☞ We need materials for hygiene kits for 200 senior citizens by the month of November.
- ☞ We need musical instruments, especially guitars for youth ministry.
- ☞ During Thanksgiving we select 50 poorer families in our area to receive a gift card of \$50 US for feeding their families.
- ☞ In July and August we need school kits and backpacks for 1,750 poor children in the border area and in Mexico. You can send them to the mission or a financial contribution, or a gift card we can use at Walmart or Office Depot.
- ☞ We need \$1,000 US to train five young single women in sewing and dress making so they have a way to make a living.
- ☞ Financial help is needed to begin construction on the Lutheran Bible School in Saltillo. It's a big vision, all donations appreciated.

***Thank You for your partnership in this ministry.***



# Gifts of Love



The following persons and organizations provided gifts, donations, or bequests to the Latin American Lutheran Mission in November 2015 - May 2016. The LALM Board of Directors and Staff are grateful for all these gifts as well as those gifts of time and talents. (If you do not want to be recognized by the Clarion for your gift, please send a note along with your contribution to the Treasurer/Financial Secretary stating your desire for anonymity.) We apologize for any errors or omissions.

## INDIVIDUALS

Beverly Aalgaard, Thompson, IA  
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## ORGANIZATIONS

Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN  
 Calvary Lutheran of Dallas/Ft Worth  
 Fertile Lutheran Church, Fertile, IA  
 Highwater Lutheran Church, Lamberton, MN  
 Lake Madison Lutheran Church, Madison, SD  
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 Minneapolis, MN  
 Our Savior's Ten Mile Lake Church, Dalton, MN  
 Old Westbrook Women of the ELCA,  
 Lamberton, MN  
 South Zumbro Women of the Word, Kasson, MN

## TREASURER'S NOTE FROM BOB MYLLER LALM TREASURER

I was impressed with the long list of supporting churches and organizations listed on page 7. Those of us on the staff and board of LALM extend our sincere thanks to God not only for those on this list but to the many faithful individual supporters who keep LALM in their prayers and financial budgets. It is very assuring to know that we have this team undergirding the mission!

I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting at Ascension Lutheran in Waterloo, IA, September 25th.

## WE WELCOME A NEW BOARD MEMBER TO THE LALM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pastor Kevin Zellers of St. John Lutheran Church in rural North Branch, MN. Welcome Pastor Zellers.



*New pastors received into the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico. Pastors Gabriel and Rosa Rincon, Pastors Arturo Cantu and Sandra.*

# ELC-M PARTNERS WHO HELP PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Dear friends of LALM:

We want to pay special tribute to the churches and organizations that have over the past year supported LALM with great generosity. Gifts have come in the form of financial offerings, hygiene kits, school kits, food supplies, clothing, blankets, household items, work teams, VBS teams, ministry teams, teaching materials, all to serve our Hispanic brothers and sisters in South Texas and Northeastern Mexico. We praise our God for these good friends of the mission! *Pastor Moises Mendez, LALM Director*

All Saints Lutheran, Minnetonka, MN  
Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX  
Bethel Lutheran, Rochester, MN  
Bethel Lutheran Mission, Laredo, TX  
Bethlehem Lutheran, Quihi, TX  
Brakebush Brothers, Inc, Westfield, WI  
BCS Construction Services, Neosho, MO  
Brooklyn Park Lutheran, Brooklyn Park, MN  
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Lake Madison Lutheran, Madison, SD  
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South Zumbro Women of the Word, Kasson, MN  
Trinity Lutheran of Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, MN  
Triumphant Love Lutheran, Austin, TX  
Zion Lutheran, San Antonio, TX  
Zion Lutheran, Stewartville, MN  
Zion Women of Life, Frederic, WI

## TRAILER TO BE AT ANNUAL MEETING

By Brian M. Smith, Director, Servant Unique Family Ministries

Clothing and other items will be collected at the Latin American Lutheran Mission's Annual Meeting on September 25, 2016, for delivery to LALM in Laredo and further distribution along the Rio Grande Valley and in Mexico through the ELCM. Adult and children clothing for all seasons is needed along with shoes, layettes, health kits, soap, toothpaste, school kits, toys, good working bikes, etc. When packing bags or boxes, please keep the weight to no more than 40 to 50 pounds.

If you are interested in helping Servant Unique Family Ministries (SUFM) with the expenses of collecting and delivering these goods for LALM, please send your monetary gifts (specifically marked for transportation of goods to Mexico) to Servant Unique Family Ministries (SUFM), 6938 Boggs Rd, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Your contributions to SUFM's humanitarian aid distribution ministry should be secondary or in addition to your regular monetary gifts of support to LALM. Also, please remember to pray for SUFM's ministry.

You can find a more complete list of items, either by going to LALM's website [www.lutheranmission.wordpress.com](http://www.lutheranmission.wordpress.com), looking under LALM "HOW TO HELP" and printing off the brochure LALM offers there with a list of things. Or you can write to us at the address above for a brochure with a more complete list of "Mission Projects We Can Do Together" for LALM and the ELCM. You may also contact us by email: [bmsmith33@hotmail.com](mailto:bmsmith33@hotmail.com) to have one sent by email to you.

# LATIN AMERICAN LUTHERAN MISSION

## ELC-M Partners Who Help Proclaim the Gospel

Incorporated in 1936, LALM is a faith mission depending entirely upon God for the supplying of its needs through the prayer and freewill offerings of His people as the Holy Spirit moves them. LALM is an independent Lutheran organization, having members on its Board of Directors from various Lutheran bodies. To learn more about LALM, please feel free to contact the board member nearest you.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Latin American Lutheran Mission Clarion

The Clarion is published three times a year by LALM for friends of the Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico. If you wish to be a prayer helper in this Mission for Mexico and would like to receive the Clarion, please contact the Editor at the address listed under "Publisher." There is no specific subscription price for the Clarion, but for those who wish to and have the means to help LALM with its cost, it is about \$3.00 per year for each mailing address. Please send contributions to our Treasurer at the address on this page.

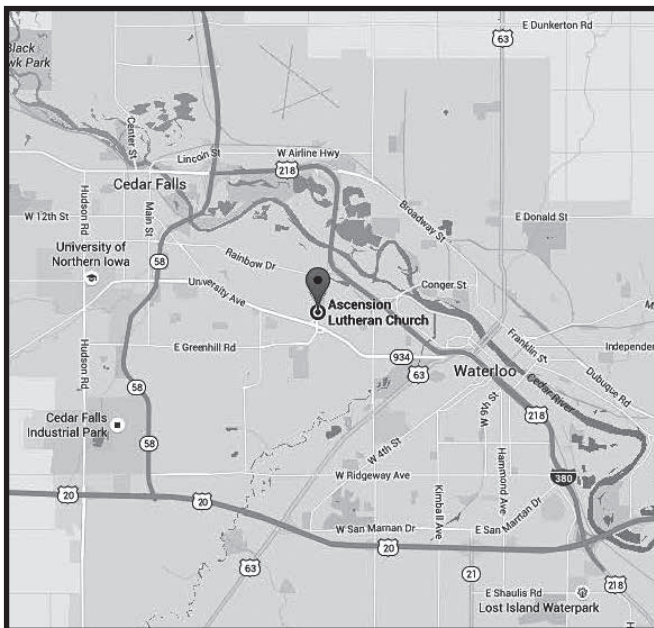
# LALM Prayer Warriors

## SUMMER 2016

“...By prayer...let your requests be known to God...” (Phil. 4:6-7)

- For needs on the border, in Mexico, and Guatemala
- For ministries, leaders, programs, projects and events.
- For the programs of evangelization.
- For four boxes of Bibles, study Bibles for youth and adults (each box has 24 bibles).
- Ministry in Cercado, Coahuila under Pr. Mucio Reyes' family.
- Ministry “Covenant of Love” in Nuevo Laredo, MX.
- Ministry in San Rafael, Nuevo Leon under Pr. Arturo Velazquez
- Ministry in “Christ Lives” in Nuevo Laredo, MX
- Materials for sunday school for children in spanish or bilingual editions (these can be purchased with gift cards from Concordia Publishing House).
- For Pastors Eduardo Aguillon and Jesus Velazquez in their convalescence.

**ACENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2211 MAYNARD AVE., WATERLOO, IA**



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