



A Time of Celebration!

Have you received any invitations to baby showers, or birthday parties, lately? It’s one of the ways we celebrate a birth. At Christmas time we send greeting cards to one another, a great way to celebrate the most important birth of all. Jesus Christ.

Scripture is clear that even angels were part of the celebration; their awesome appearance and praise were God’s announcement and heaven’s celebration. The amazed shepherds representing God’s chosen people, Isreal, could not wait to see it with their own eyes. Later the Magi, learned men from the East, representing the Gentile nations, came to give the new born gifts appropriate for a King. They wanted to be part of the celebration, too! The baby Jesus was on a mission, to bring Salvation to all humanity, both Jew and Gentile.

The LALM board and staff send our Christmas greeting and invite you to celebrate the Savior’s birth and participate in His mission to all nations.



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75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The much anticipated LALM 75th Anniversary Celebration was a moment to remember. Supporters from the Upper Mid-West and as far away as Indiana and Texas were in attendance. It was a joy to have good attendance throughout the conference. Friday was a retrospective on the history of the mission under four directors with video and powerpoint presentations. Saturday was a focus on the present and the future with presentations on trends affecting missions, and challenges to move from mission field to missionary force.

A very memorable presentation was by Pastor Natanael Lizarazo on Saturday afternoon. Pastor Lizarazo, of Colombia, S.A. is a son of the Lutheran Church of Colombia currently serving First Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD. His family came into the Lutheran Church through the pioneering efforts of Myrtle Nordin in Colombia. The president of the Lutheran Church of Colombia was present with him to give a greeting and honor Myrtle's ministry. The Lutheran Church of Colombia is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, as well.

The worship at each session led by Joyce Anderson and Rose Marie Anderson, and the special music throughout of the "Estudiantina" of Ebenezer Lutheran in Saltillo, the Kinsmen quartet, and Dave Anderson & Kelly Patten greatly enriched the conference. The meals coordinated by Ron Berry, the spacious venue of Wooddale Lutheran, and its ample parking lot, the coffee and fellowship breaks coordinated by Suzanne Caqueline of Trinity Lutheran of Minnehaha Falls, all contributed to a great conference.

The tone of the conference was 'thank you' as we recognized with certificates of appreciation at every session the many, many volunteers who have blessed the work in Mexico.



Winter Texans being recognized.



75th Anniversary at Wooddale Lutheran Church



ELCM presents plaque to LALM for 75 Anniversary.



North Dakota Attendees



Estudiantina



Dr. Curt & Ruth (Peterson) Bakken giving greeting.



Carol Olson and Alice Hedin Manternach



Chef Ron Berry with mexican youth.



Joyce Anderson sings a tribute.



Midwest churches represented.



Myrtle Nordin family members.



Pastor David Halvorson, Fertile Iowa.



Betty Lou Strand and daughter Julie Ann Strand Mandes of Kindred, ND.



Staff and regular volunteers.



Kinsmen Quartette Friday evening.

LATIN AMERICAN LUTHERAN MISSION CONFERENCE MEETING
75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
November 11-13, 2011
Wooddale Lutheran Church, 4033 Wooddale Ave, St. Louis Park, MN 55446
Rev. Dick and Barb Erickson, Directors

“Unchanging Gospel for a Changing World” was the theme for the LALM 75th Anniversary celebration held November 11-13, 2011, at Wooddale Lutheran Church, St Louis Park, MN. The three-day celebration was well attended with guests from MN, IA, IN, ND, SD, TX, and WI.

President Rev. Byron Meline opened the business portion of the November 12 meeting with a welcome and a devotional on the Parable of the Talents from Luke.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to receive the secretary’s report as printed.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to receive the treasurer’s report as printed.

The following names were presented as nominees to the board: Joyce Anderson, Ruthton, MN; Rev. Dick Erickson, Brooklyn Park, MN; and Mike Doberenz, Dallas, TX. A motion was made and accepted that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot in favor of these nominees who will serve three year terms. Outgoing members, Rose Marie Anderson, Phil Spaulding, and Rev. Al Vik were acknowledged and thanked for their years of service on the board. Bob Myller will continue to serve as treasurer of LALM.

Mexican Pastors Marco Antonio Rodriguez, Mucio Reyes, Homero Cortez and their families accompanied Rev. Dick Erickson to Minneapolis. “Estudiantina”, a musical group from Mexico, shared their singing talent. The Mexican Pastors led the guests in singing and shared testimonies of the activity in their own congregations.

Directors Report Rev. Dick and Barb Erickson presented their annual report. Highlights of their report gave an update on the activity with the ELCM. Fewer visits were made this year into Mexico because of violence in the country.

The semi-annual ELCM pastor’s conference which was held October 12-14, 2011, in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, centered on the topic of church planting and raising up leaders. Pr Carlos de Leon and Pr Musio Reyes each have a successful radio program.

The ELCM Women’s’ conference held August 10-12, 2011, in Saltillo was well attended with emphasis on “Being Equipped for Difficult Times”. A training event for youth was held during the same time period in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Sixty-eight youth participated in this training on how to share their faith in Christ.

The Gospel Bookstore has made positive gains for the fourth successive year.

New Business The Search Committee for a new LALM director reported that they are still in the process and will do some final interviewing in the next few weeks.

Retirement from LALM Directors Rev. Dick and Barb Erickson were asked to come forward and were recognized with a parting gift for their 7-½ years of love and self-less servanthood among the people of Mexico. In 2004, they answered the call of service for sharing the gospel with the Mexican people who have not heard. They responded with deep appreciation for their family and LALM friends for support during these years.

The Mexican pastors presented a beautiful plaque to the LALM in appreciation for the mission’s partnership on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that this portion of the business meeting be adjourned.

Dave Anderson and Kelly Patton, gospel singers from AZ, presented a musical concert.

Barb Erickson had recognition certificates for past officers of LALM, various service groups and visiting teams that had gone into Mexico working with the ELCM churches.

Rev. Steve Huey, current director of Central American Lutheran Mission Society, from St Louis, MO, presented information on “Living a Legacy, What Does It Look Like?”

Respectfully Submitted, Rose Marie Anderson, Secretary

Pray for the New Director Search Committee:

The board of the LALM has been active in the search for a new director. Over 25 names of possible candidates were identified, and hours of telephone calls and paper work have narrowed the field. It has been a great blessing to meet some of God's very special people, all of them involved in Christian ministry, with varieties of gifts and experiences. We have felt many times like Samuel in the Old Testament, sure that 'this son of Jesse' must be the one. At this point, the task force is preparing to interview yet another round of 'finalists'. Pray for these interviews that the same Holy Spirit who guided Samuel may be upon us with a sure word of confirmation about God's choice.

Brother Harold Anderson

On November 3, 2011 one of LALM's dear volunteers passed away at the age of 88. Harold's testimony and various photos of his volunteer service with the mission are found in the 75th Anniversary book of the mission's history.

Harold had a nursery business and his farm near Chester, SD was devoted to growing beautiful trees which were shipped all over the country. He employed several Mexicans on his tree farm, they were among the pallbearers at his funeral. The evidence of Harold's green thumb is very visible at the border station in Laredo where every year about this time we are harvesting hundreds of gorgeous oranges and grapefruit, planted by Harold.

But that is not the only fruit we rejoice in, for Harold has sown generously into the radio ministry of our Mexican pastors who weekly preach the Gospel and meet many spiritual needs over the air waves. Among his last wishes was to make sure his family sent in his offering for the radio ministry. Praise the Lord for the life of his servant Harold Anderson.

Needed- One Used Pick-Up Truck:

"On a recent trip for the LALM our 1997 Dodge Pick Up truck developed severe mechanical problems. The cost for repairs would be way more than the value of this vehicle with nearly 200,000 miles. We are praying that God would lay it on the heart of our LALM family of prayers and supporters to donate to this ministry a used pick-up. This type of vehicle has so many uses both at the border station and in Mexico. Perhaps this is a good time of the year to do so as donations can also represent a tax deduction. Please pray with us about this need."



How About A Visit? October Visits to Northern Illinois and Indiana

In mid-October in response to two invitations I spent most of a week meeting pastors in northern Illinois, culminating with a visit in Valparaiso, Indiana.

It was encouraging to find many pastors open to the vision of the LALM. The complexion of the church has changed with many congregations having realigned themselves with other Lutheran associations. Many of these contacts were originally made by Claire Hobart's music ministry years ago, and former board members who volunteered with the mission and took frequent trips to Laredo, and Mexico.

Maybe it's time for us to visit your church, too! We'd love to do so. Now that Barb and I are in the Upper Midwest give us a call at 956-235-1963. Let's get it on the calendar whether for a temple talk, a mission festival, or just a meeting in your home with friends over coffee.



Sam Gomez & Carlos deLeon

Planting New Churches: The theme of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico Pastors' Conference

On October 12-14, 2011 the pastors of the ELCM met for their semi-annual "Confraternidad" conference at El Sembrador, 'The Sower', Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The conference is always a mix of inspiration, business, and training. The morning devotionals and evening services are the inspiration component where the pastors themselves preach and share from the Word of God.

Being they only gather as a group twice a year, there is always church business to accomplish, as well.

The training component on this occasion was led by Pastor Samuel Gomez of Escondido, California. Born into a Presbyterian family and college educated in Mexico City, Pastor Gomez completed a Doctor of Ministry program on planting new churches at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and currently serves two Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations in southern California.

He was well prepared and had more material than time allowed, but the pastors each received a helpful manual and a book which the mission provided to enrich their understanding of what Hispanics are doing to plant the church and reach out to their neighbors. For certain Pastor Gomez will be invited back at a future date to further develop this strategic topic for the growth of the church.



Gifts of Love



The following persons and organizations provided gifts, donations, or bequests to the Latin American Lutheran Mission in July, August, September, October, November, 2011. 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.

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Latin American Lutheran Mission

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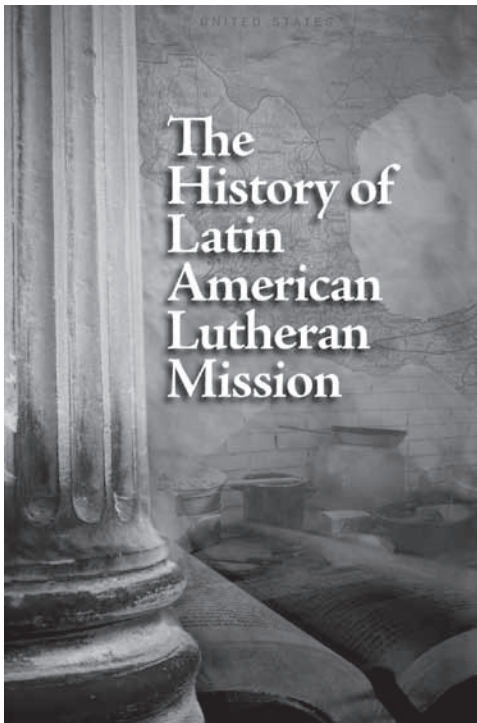
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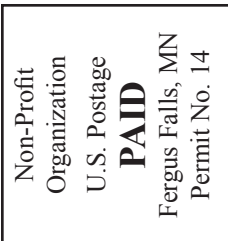
Winter 2012

Thank you, Lord

- For the ELCM pastors' conference in October and the focus on planting new churches.
- For the training of 68 youth in the Rio Bravo, MX area in the month of August in personal evangelism.
- For a memorable 75th Anniversary Celebration at Wooddale Lutheran.
- For the 75th Anniversary task force, and many other volunteers, for Ron Berry's coordination of the meals and accommodations at Wooddale, and for Suzanne Caqueline and Trinity Lutheran's help with the conference.
- For the service of out-going LALM board members: Pastor Al Vik, Phil Spaulding, & Rose Marie Anderson.
- For safe travel for our Mexican families from Saltillo, Mexico to Minneapolis and back, and for the great music and reports they brought us.
- For the generous offerings received at the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you!

Lord, our eyes are you

- For wisdom and guidance for the New Director Task Force as they interview candidates and move forward with the selection of a new director.
- For our Mexican Lutheran pastors and congregations in the many special events to celebrate Christmas and reach out to their communities in this Advent season.
- For Bethel Lutheran Church at the LALM border station as various pastors and leaders from the border area lead in worship in this transition time.
- For spiritual power for the radio ministries of the ELCM through the preaching and leadership of Pastor Carlos de Leon, Pastor Musio Reyes, and Jacobo Rodriguez.
- For God's provision for costs of radio time.
- For protection of our Mexican pastors and congregations in this time of drug cartel-related violence in Mexico.
- For the board and constituency of the LALM, for the capacity to embrace a new vision for the ministry of the LALM going forward with its new director.
- For the provision of a used pick-up truck for the LALM.
- For a fresh insight into the deeper meanings of Christmas and God's Great Commission intentions for 2012.



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