

**The Word of God and the love of God cannot be contained.**  
As Thomas and the other disciples experienced,  
**walls and closed doors can't keep Jesus from being with the people He loves.**

### **Phone calls, text messages, and outdoor devotions ...**

Deaconess Marta Luna, LLM's missionary, continues her work with families, although she's doing it at a safe distance. During March she was in contact with 28 families in the Woodburn area by way of outdoor devotionals and prayers. She was in touch with 53 people by phone or text, and delivered food to the porches of several families. You can see some of her visits on her Facebook page. She makes an effort to direct the people to Hope Lutheran in Woodburn as she maintains continuing contact and spiritual care for them.

They need to know someone is beside them...

Although the Christian helping agency, Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC), with which Marta works is closed, she continues caring for the people she has met there. She observes, "My work at Love INC is great and they do a great job helping people get things they need, but when they leave the building they think, "Who will take care of me now?" They need to know someone is beside them, and I am there to let them know God is with them and loves them."

### **Working on something new...**

With LLM President, Pam Bridgehouse, Deaconess Marta is creating a bilingual manual for initiating home visits and developing relationships and sharing God's love with people to bring them into God's kingdom. In this way we hope to share some of Deaconess Marta's wisdom and experience and give people confidence to share the Gospel.

### **Pastor Lopez says, "The church is not closed!"**

We are Christians. Jesus saved us by His precious blood and we were washed in our baptism. Yes, we know that God never changes the message. It is clear: whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. How can we reach our community? The church is not closed. We keep on worshipping God via the Internet together once a week. We have Bible studies on the computer and by telephone weekly. Our young people are still taking Confirmation classes on "Zoom". April 26 Holy Communion was served to **45 people** in their cars in the church parking lot. Several families, maintaining a safe distance, have prepared the church's community garden and it is half planted. Pastor Lopez says, "Let me tell you, the church is open!" Links to worship services are available on Hope's website: [hopewoodburn.org](http://hopewoodburn.org)



### **Training a pastor...**

Vicar Ruberto Ek Yah is continuing his pastoral education online and has now completed more than half of his program. LLM's education fund provides tuition and study materials as needed. We are grateful to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund and the Oregon district of the Lutheran Layman's League for their assistance.

### **All the way to Mexico!**



Meanwhile, Vicar Ruberto offers Spanish-language devotions, worship, and Bible studies online for the people of Trinity and Ascension in Portland, but his offerings reach much farther. He is conducting an online study of the Bible and Lutheran Doctrine with a small group in his home town in Yucatan, Mexico! And, at the request of a member of Trinity, has started a men's Bible study to introduce the man's unchurched coworkers to Christ and the church. He does all this while working full time and supporting his wife and family through her cancer treatments.

### **A Great Partnership and a Worthy Project**

Last fall Deaconess Marta and I helped the Silverton Senior Center clear out their inventory of clothing, bedding, and housewares as they prepared for renovation of their thrift shop. The woman in charge happens to be a high school classmate of my husband. She recently went shopping in Woodburn and noticed a large number of Hispanic people not wearing masks and not distancing. She was concerned and called me. The Senior Center has purchased hundreds of paper masks and will provide them to LLM and Hope, Woodburn, to distribute. They are also recruiting volunteers to sew cloth masks. Six women are already sewing for the project. It is interesting that when she called me I was sewing masks! We are working in partnership with the Mega Foods store. This is a great project.

Below is the announcement that was sent to Hope members. The Senior Center is placing an ad in the local Shopper, a weekly publication that covers Silverton, Mt. Angel, and Scotts Mills, and they are emailing 1500 people. I have submitted a story to the Northwest District but still need to add some photos once the project is underway. I put the announcement on our website under Coming Events, with a link to the story on the home page. I will also post it on Facebook when I get some photos.

## **The Word of God and the Love of God cannot be contained. Lutheran Latino Ministries is at work!**

**We thank God for all of our champions – their prayers and financial participation in the ministry result in changed lives as people Hear God's Word and experience His love.**

**Your participation is welcome any time.  
Watch for the Pentecost Funding Appeal coming at the end of May.**