

Lutheran Latino Ministries

Ministerios Latinos Luteranos

Winter 2023

*Christ for all...
Cristo para todos*

2022 Annual Report

The Year in Review and a Look Forward – Our Workers Are Busy in the Field!

***Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!***

Psalm 90:17

Deaconess Marta Luna during 2022 made 424 home visits, including 20 devotions for individuals, families, or neighborhood groups per month. When not visiting face to face she keeps in touch through some 200 texts and 200 calls per month.

Four days per month at Salem Free Clinic where some 200 people a year are blessed by her prayer ministry. About 50% have no home church so Marta directs clients to Redeemer Lutheran in Salem as often as circumstances allow. One lady asked for ongoing help for her family “to remain in God’s faith.”

Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) clients in Woodburn call on her for ministry support and spiritual care. She opens the clothing shed at Hope Lutheran in Woodburn for people in need. Helped with a farm worker housing program in Albany and Lebanon.

Deaconess Marta organized and met with Bible story classes 17 times in Portland, 15 times in Salem, and eight times in Silverton, and gave 80 rides to medical, legal, or other appointments.

She continues working with four families in Salem and encourages them to attend Redeemer Lutheran. With the help of Redeemer member Merryann Randall, Deaconess Marta and LLM are encouraging Redeemer Lutheran in Salem to continue developing their outreach among their Hispanic/Latino neighbors.



The Spring Gathering of the Willamette Zone LWML assembled 80 “Blessing Bags” for Deaconess Marta’s ministry. Clothing donated for Marta’s ministry during the Oregon District LWML Convention in June has been distributed among about 100 people.

In August we celebrated Deaconess Marta’s 20 year association with Lutheran Latino Ministries during our quarterly meeting held at Hope, Woodburn, shown here with Willamette Zone

President Karen Clark, Vice President Paulette Stahlecker, Marta Luna, Oregon District LWML President Carol Ries. In November Deaconess Marta accompanied Pr. Ruberto and Colleen Ek to Yakima to visit families and conduct Spanish-language worship. She encouraged and offered to help members of Bethlehem, Yakima, to put on a Vacation Bible School this summer.

As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:15b

Deaconess Intern Hana Laughton is now almost halfway through Concordia Seminary's Online Deaconess



Trinity, Portland LWML Latina members,
Angelica Juarez, Deysi Pat, Hana Laughton, Araceli Becerril

Formation Program, enjoying her studies and doing well academically. As an intern she is helping to teach Confirmation Class at Ascension, Portland. She also works with the children during Ascension's Friday evening gatherings, visits hospitalized and homebound members, and gives rides to people in need. Hana, who sings and plays the flute beautifully, is also taking organ lessons so she will be more versatile in ministry. Together with her mother, LLM Vice President Sara Cardona, Hana helped with LLM's exhibit at the Northwest District LCMS and Oregon District LWML conventions. Through most of 2022 Hana helped lead music

at the contemporary English and Spanish services at Trinity, Portland. Hana participates actively in local LWML groups. She does all this while working full time at Reynolds High School and administering an after-school program.

I commend to you our sister [Hana], a servant of the church... Romans 16:1a

Pr. Ruberto Ek Yah was ordained March 27, 2022. During the year he taught numerous classes preparing people to receive the sacrament of Baptism. He also taught Bible classes at Ascension and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Portland, and online classes in the Mayan language for people in his hometown of Tipikal, Yucatan, Mexico. Both classes are currently on hold. During 2022 Pr. Ruberto baptized four people, performed one wedding, two quinceañeras, and served as a supply preacher in Molalla, Woodburn, Portland, Waldport, Lincoln City in Oregon, and Monroe and Yakima in Washington. Since Pr. Eric Moeller accepted a call to teach at Concordia University, Chicago, Pr. Ruberto ministers to homebound members and is preaching every Sunday at Trinity. He is continuing his education with seminary professors. Ascension Lutheran in Portland is working on a plan to have Pr. Ruberto conduct a Spanish-language worship service every Sunday. Currently the Latino Bible study and worship services are held on Friday evenings. The plans are still in the developing. May God be their guide.



I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service... 1 Timothy 1:12a

Encouraging New Ministries In September 2022 LLM President Pam Bridgehouse visited Bethlehem Lutheran in Hermiston and Bethlehem Lutheran in Yakima, giving workshops at each location focused on helping the Anglo members reach out to their Hispanic/Latino neighbors despite not having a Spanish-speaking worker on site.

At Hermiston Pr. Mark Adams and several Bethlehem members enthusiastically developed a plan for developing outreach and pastoral care for their Hispanic/Latino neighbors. Encouragement and ongoing support will help them achieve their mission goals.

At Yakima, Pam attended Sunday worship at both Peace Lutheran in Selah and Bethlehem Lutheran in Yakima before presenting the Sunday afternoon workshop. Members of both congregations participated, and two Latino families were represented. Both Bethlehem and Peace congregations were encouraged by the workshop and made plans to initiate outreach activities. As in Hermiston, ongoing encouragement will help them keep moving toward their mission goals.

Pastor Zabdi Lopez not only serves Hope, Woodburn, with bi-cultural worship, music and language classes, and frequent social and study activities. He and his family are also leading the revival of Hispanic ministry at Bethlehem, Yakima. In November 2021 Pr. Eric Moeller, Pr. Zabdi Lopez, and then Vicar Ruberto Ek Yah took on the mission of reviving a dormant ministry in Yakima, WA. A group about a dozen Latino families formed by the work of missionary Mo Garcia (retired) has become associated with Bethlehem Lutheran Church and are hungry to hear



God's Word and worship in their heart language. The three pastors visited Yakima on a rotation schedule until Pr. Eric accepted a call and Pr. Ruberto's duties at Trinity, Portland, now prevent him from helping. Deaconess Marta Luna accompanied Pr. Ruberto and his family in November. Pastor Lopez is now making the trip once a month to visit families, share a meal, and conduct a Spanish worship service. Trinity member

Angelica Juarez went and worked with them one time. One service a month is not enough to build the congregation. LLM is encouraging trained lay members of Trinity, Ascension, and Hope Lutheran Churches to go visit and pray with the people between pastor visits. Bethlehem, Yakima and Peace, Selah, are a dual parish that has been vacant for some time. We understand that they hope to call a bilingual pastor. Pastor Lopez stays in touch with the people via text and phone calls. His mother, Blanca, is a great help in the ministry.

Pastor Lopez actively trains lay people for ministry and will be teaching an online class for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. **Bilingual pastors are badly needed in Portland, Salem, and Yakima. Deaconesses could lay a strong groundwork for ministry in many areas.**

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Luke 10:2

At the 2022 Northwest District LCMS Convention LLM was recognized by the passing of Resolution 2-11, which included the directive "to commend to our district members and congregations generous support of the Lutheran Latino Ministries organization."* This affirms the work of LLM as worthy of support from all corners of the Northwest. We followed up the Resolution with an appeal letter to every congregation in the District, then followed the letters with phone calls which resulted in some new donor congregations, and some congregations increasing their annual gifts. We appreciate the partnership and support!

*Cited from the Northwest District website <https://nowlcms.org/stories/encouraging-growing-learning-leading/>

Financials: By the grace of God and the generosity of **our champions** we finished the 2022 in the black. The **individuals and congregations who give monthly** sustain Lutheran Latino Ministries. **Others** who give as they are able are also valued partners in ministry. **The Northwest District LCMS** generously provides \$6,000, about one month's expenses, each year. The **Oregon Pastors Conference and The Inland Empire Pastors' Conference** blessed LLM with their offerings. A grant from **Zion Lutheran Endowment Fund** has paid for most of Deaconess Intern Hana Laughton's education, along with support from **LWML groups** and individuals. The **Oregon District LWML Convention** chose LLM as a mission grant recipient. Our three fundraising campaigns helped to fill gaps in our resources.

The March Giving Day goal was \$6,000 and yielded \$2,940.

The June Pentecost Appeal goal was also \$6,000 and yielded \$4,537.

Our Enlarge the Harvest goal was \$22,000 and yielded \$15,093.

Lutheran Latino Ministries has grown and continued by God's grace working through you, our faithful champions to sustain our two deaconesses and maintain day-to-day operations.

Give us this day our daily bread... Matthew 6:15

Lutheran Latino Ministries

PO Box 293

Mt. Angel, OR 97262

<https://lutheranlatinoministries.org>

email: lutheranlatinoministries@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT

Use the QR Code to access the LLM website and donate today!



Next Meeting

Sunday April 16 3:30 pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church
4663 Lancaster Drive NE
Salem, OR 97305

You're invited to the Spanish worship services:

Sunday 11:30 am at Hope, Woodburn

1:00 pm at Trinity, Portland

Friday 6:30 pm at Ascension, Portland

See our website for bilingual service places and times.

Please pray ...

- That God will continue to bless LLM workers with health and wisdom;
- For open doors and open hearts in Salem, Yakima, Hermiston and wherever the Holy Spirit leads;
- For all who worship at the Spanish services, and all who benefit from the ministry;
- For all our champions who generously support the work by their prayers and financial support;
- That God's abundant blessing will continue

**We need volunteers to work with social media,
finance committee, fundraising team,
and strategic ministry planning.**

***As each has received a gift, use it to serve
one another, as good stewards of God's
varied grace... 1 Peter 4:10***