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| Grant Name | Bringing the Gospel to Mexico Missions |
| Mission/Project Summary | The Bringing the Gospel to Mexico Missions grant will support Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care's partnership with four Lutheran mission congregations serving communities in Mexico affected by poverty, displacement, and limited access to resources. Through this grant, YLM will strengthen Gospel-centered ministries by providing food, faith formation resources, and practical support for families, children, the elderly, and those recovering from addiction. Funding will help sustain weekly worship, feeding programs, and discipleship efforts while expanding access to Spanish-language Lutheran teaching materials. This support will also nurture future church leaders and church workers, trusting the Holy Spirit to grow and sustain the Lutheran Church in Mexico. |
| Project Description and Details | <p>The four Mexico missions currently partnering with YLM serve in some of the poorest, and underserved areas of their communities. With the assistance of this grant, they will be able to provide needed resources for their congregation, and community, to help them know the Gospel in tangible ways.</p> <p>At La Santa Biblia, located in Rancho Anapra, a town built on what was one of Cd. Juarez's landfills, over 60 families meet every Friday morning to hear God's Word and praise Him through music. This congregation has no building, other than a metal roof shading a concrete pad next to a storage container, where a small burner connected to a tank of gas is used to heat up a large pot of noodle soup. 40-60 kids are given a cup of soup after the service. For some of these children, ages 1 year old to 15, this cup of soup is the only meal they may have on that day.</p> <p>Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, located within the city limits of Cd. Juarez, is a small congregation formed by elderly members and a few children who struggle with the conditions of their community. The area around Cristo Rey is known for prostitution, drug activity, and children left to the care of elderly grandparents. As the oldest Lutheran church in Cd. Juarez, this congregation is lacking in resources needed to teach God's Word to both children and elderly.</p> <p>Iglesia Luterana Gloria Dei, located in Chihuahua City, four hours south of Cd. Juarez, is the only Mexico mission currently served by a Lutheran Pastor, Rev. Misael Tovar, who received his training through the Lutheran Teaching Extension program and is now completing remedial colloquy courses to become part of the Mexico Lutheran Synod. Gloria Dei has close to thirty members and is host to a bi-monthly Bible study for addiction survivors, led by Pastor Tovar, as his second on-going career is psychiatry and addiction counseling. Pastor Tovar has expressed a need for resources to be able to introduce new members to the Lutheran doctrine, as well as help his current congregation grow in their faith.</p> <p>The San Esteban Mission is in a small town outside of Chihuahua City named San Lorenzo. Majority of the people who attend the once-a-month service at San Esteban, led by Pastor Misael Tovar, are Tarahumaras, an indigenous people group who live off agricultural work. In the last twenty years, many Tarahumara families have been displaced from their farms and fields by the cartels, making it difficult for them to provide for their families. These people not only find help through the church in tangible ways, but they -children, youth, and adults -are receiving the Good News of Jesus Christ, which gives them hope for a better tomorrow.</p> |

The recipient must be affiliated with one of the following. Please select the one that applies to this request:

Registered Service Organization (RSO)

Amount requested:

10,000

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal for this grant is to provide resources to the four Mexico Missions YLM partners with, in accordance with their needs. For La Santa Biblia, the on-going weekly feeding of children began in the early 2000s and continues today. This ministry serves children physically and spiritually, by providing both the Word of God and a meal, feeding and nourishing body and soul.

At Cristo Rey, Gloria Dei, and San Esteban, Spanish resources are needed to help members and attendees grow in the faith and understand Lutheran doctrine. Several youths at San Esteban are interested in learning more about serving the church as deacons, deaconesses, and possibly pastors, which are needed in Mexico. These resources will help nurture and grow faith and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, bring forth future church-workers to help the expansion of the Lutheran Church in Mexico.

Budget Outline and Financial Plan

Spanish Bibles, Spanish Christian Literature, Spanish Songbooks for 4 Mexico Missions: \$5,000

* Each Mexico mission will receive \$1,250 to purchase Spanish materials. Purchase of materials will be done by Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care and Mexico mission leaders will pick up and take back to their congregations.

Meals for 12 months of "Mesa de Reyes" Children's Ministry at La Santa Biblia Mission in Anapra, MX: \$5,000

* A monthly stipend of \$416 will be given to Mexico Deaconess Rosy Lira to purchase needed supplies (food, disposables, gas for cooking) to feed 40-60 children every Friday after their morning devotional service.

Additional Comments or Information

Uploaded photo was taken November 2025 at La Santa Biblia, where over 25 kids and 40 adults received a Thanksgiving meal, an annual tradition for thirty years thanks to a partnership between Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care and Our Father Lutheran Church of Centennial, CO.

Karla Gonzalez serves as the Interim Executive Director of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care and is an LWML member of Zion Lutheran Church of El Paso, TX.

Maritza Muñoz serves as the Bookkeeper of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care and will be the Grant Administrator. She is a LWML member of San Pablo Lutheran Church of El Paso, TX.



Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey has seen a decline in their membership due to elderly members passing away and little ministry taking place. Partnering with Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care has begun to bring new families through Vacation Bible School, Women's Ministry, and Faith-led health clinics.



Iglesia Luterana La Santa Biblia in Rancho Anapra, Mexico, meets every Friday morning for a devotion and praise, led by Mexico deaconesses, elders of San Pablo Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX, or occasionally, by other Lutheran Pastors who are visiting, such as Rev. Misael Tovar or Rev. Stephen Heimer.



Iglesia Luterana San Esteban is in a small rural town, San Lorenzo, outside of Chihuahua City. Majority of the people who attend the once-a-month service, Bible Study, and Children's Ministry are Tarahumaras, an indigenous group suffering due to displacement from their farmland by cartel activity. This congregation has several youths interested in learning more about the Lutheran doctrine and church work.



Pastor Misael Tovar, who also works as a psychiatrist and addictions counselor, hosts bi-monthly Bible studies for addiction survivors at Iglesia Luterana Gloria Dei. With an average attendance of 12 adults, Pastor Tovar has shared several have begun attending Sunday services as well.