

## Angel Scholarship Program

Wherever Lutherans are in mission, there will be a concern for education because we believe God calls us to use our capacity and gifts for learning. In LBCM's work in Mexico, the opportunity exists to support families whose income may limit their child's participation in the public school system which requires uniforms, test fees, and more for its students. Some parents find themselves with a choice of feeding their children or providing for their education.

The Angel Scholarship Program was created to support families in the neighborhoods around the churches and to empower youth through volunteer service. Named after Pastor Angel Lanza, Lutheran pastor from Venezuela who began **El Redentor (Redeemer) Lutheran Church** in Tijuana and who tragically died at a young age, the program provides fees for secondary students who might otherwise need to leave school. Pastor Lanza's daughter, Legna, administers the program in cooperation with the local Lutheran churches in Mexico. Scholarship recipients volunteer in the Lutheran churches as part of the program, building social skills along with all that education provides. Through these gifts, scholarships are also provided for the children of the Lutheran ministry workers in Tijuana.

Gifts to the Angel Scholarship Program are sought so that we might expand this program. While we cannot meet all the needs in Tijuana, this program makes a difference in a child's life. Thank you for your support!

By Pastor Gloria Espeseth

## Youth Center Activities

Many student gather at the youth centers after school for help with homework or to work on arts and crafts projects.



LBCM continually gives out school supplies to help meet the need for children to continue to go to school.



These children live in San Luis, Rio Colorado.

## The Lord Takes Care of Both Our Physical and Spiritual Needs



Martha, a single mother, received two blessings on the same weekend. The first was a new home on October 29<sup>th</sup>, pictured above. Thank you to **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Yorba Linda, CA for your generous donation to provide for this important physical need. The second blessing was spiritual. Her four children, two boys and two girls, were baptized on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>. Below is Pastor Jimenez baptizing the children at **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church** in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora.



Please keep supporting the building of these homes to make a real difference for people in need, both physical and spiritual.

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**Covenant Community Church**, Orange, CA, built a house for Juan Carlos and his family. They also held VBS for a day with many children from the community near **San Pablo (St Paul) Lutheran Church**. What a blessing for this community! Pictured (in the next column) is Juan Carlos, his family and members from Covenant Community Church.



Members from **Ascension & Gethsemane Lutheran Churches**, San Diego, CA, pictured below, came to Tijuana for the first time and provided a new home for Ana and her family.



Volunteers from Tijuana helped to build a new home for a family thanks to **Bethany Lutheran Church**, San Diego, CA. Thank you to Pastor Steven and Ginger! It was a cold day with some rain showers. Neighbors came and thanked us for giving a warmer, water-proof and safe place for the three young girls. Pictured below, the volunteer crew and the family that received the new home.



R.C.

## Legna's Corner

Each year, LBCM receives Christmas gifts to be given to children in need across the border in Mexico. These gifts represent the blessings that come from God, for girls and boys that rarely have the chance to receive a gift, through donations from people in the United States.

A gift given to a child in need represents a present that is given because of a holiday as well as the desire to give something without expecting anything in return. This is how God is with us, He sent His only Son to die on the Cross in our place, without expecting anything in return. This is the Good News that we share through a gift to a child. In the giving of a gift, the act of serving and giving along with the message of Christ can impact the life of a child and his family. The true gift is the gift of Christ.

The Christmas holiday is a special time in Tijuana. We have the opportunity to share and celebrate the blessing of the Child of Bethlehem who came to save the world from its sins.

There are many children in Tijuana that will receive a new toy through LBCM this year; it is my wish that the light of Christ can continue to shine through this ministry and lead more children and their families to know the great gift of salvation we receive from our Savior, Jesus Christ. Feliz Navidad!  
- Legna Lanza



## Collecting Christmas Gifts & Socks

You can help make it a brighter Christmas season for needy children in Mexico. We are collecting gifts and socks for children again this year. Gifts and socks can be for boys or girls, from babies to teens. We ask that the gifts be left unwrapped. Please no food products or gift cards. The donated gifts and socks can be collected through Christmas and then delivered to our office in time for Epiphany or we can arrange to pick them up, just call our office at 619-286-2445. Bring a smile to a child by donating a toy and the opportunity for them to know that God loves them through you.

## A New Bible Institute

During this fall, Instituto Biblico Luterano, (Lutheran Bible Institute), was established in Tijuana. They are expecting to start classes the first week of March, 2012. Students will take classes for 2½ years to complete all 10 courses. This Bible Institute will train pastors, future missionaries and lay people to help with the ministry in Mexico.

If you are interested in helping by teaching classes, giving a seminar or a workshop for a day or helping the students with their assignments while you are visiting Tijuana or on a mission trip, contact our office to make arrangements to help out with this important theological education effort.

On the opening day, the first Sunday of March 2012, in the afternoon, there will be a ceremony of dedication at **El Divino (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church** in Tijuana. If you are interested in attending please call our office.

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*LBCM staff and pastors and lay  
leaders in Mexico wish you a  
Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year!*

*Feliz Navidad y Año Nuevo!*

**Please join us!**  
**LBCM Annual Meeting  
and Dinner**  
**Saturday, March 10, 2012**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**3060 54<sup>th</sup> St, San Diego CA**  
**Please RSVP – 619-286-2445 or**  
**[lbcmsd@gmail.com](mailto:lbcmsd@gmail.com)**

### **BASIC NEEDS**

Rice & Beans  
Blankets or Quilts  
School Supplies

**Follow us on Facebook at:**  
[lbcfacebook@gmail.com](mailto:lbcfacebook@gmail.com) (Lbcm  
SanDiego)

**Check out our website:**  
[lutheranborderconcernsministry.org](http://lutheranborderconcernsministry.org)

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

**LBCM** is a qualifying organization for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Choice Dollars Program. Choice Dollars lets Thrivent members help choose where Thrivent distributes its charitable funds. For more information go to [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) .

The LUTHERAN BORDER CONCERNS MINISTRY (formerly the Lutheran Baja California Mission) is independent, inter-Lutheran, non-profit incorporated in California in 1967 to supplement ongoing Lutheran efforts with Latin Americans on both sides of the border. All programs are supported solely through voluntary contributions. Initially the work centered in two of the fastest growing and economically depressed areas in the Americas, in the border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, today we include San Luis Rio Colorado. LBCM continues to provide religious Spanish literature to all areas we are currently working in. ALL GIFTS TO LBCM ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. With a dollar or more contribution, one becomes an LBCM member.