



## Celebration and Learning

On Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> a workshop lead by Pastor Roger Heintz from **Brookfield Lutheran Church**, Brookfield, Wisconsin, took place at **El Divino Salvador (Divine Savior) Lutheran Church**. Forty-four people attended, including pastors, lay leaders and members from the area churches. Pastor Roger introduced the group to “The Divine Drama” material that is used to train church leaders and prepare adults for confirmation. Thanks to **Brookfield Lutheran Church** for the donation of transparencies and books that will be used in this important process of training our leaders and pastors in Mexico. The need for more materials will continue on in the future. Below is a picture of Pastor Roger and Ramon Contreras during the workshop.



Everyone that attended the workshop was so excited about the material that they wanted to start using it right away. The use of pictures helped them understand the story of the Bible better.

Also on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Father’s Day was celebrated. All fathers attending the service at **El Divino** were asked to come forward to the

altar, pictured below.



A lady from the church read them a poem about being a father. After the poem, Pastor Martinez’s wife, Martha prayed for them, asking a blessing upon their families, work and personal life. The youth and the ladies from the church prepared a special gift for them. Pastor Roger gave the sermon, encouraging fathers to lead their families in Christ. After the service everyone rejoiced and celebrated Father’s Day by sharing a meal.

## Building Houses, but the Need is Still Great



Pastor Richard Jaech brought his mission team from **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church**, Vancouver, Washington, to share the

love of Christ by giving the gift of a new home to three different families. One of the families (pictured above) receiving a home was a family with seven children, along with Mom and Dad made a family of nine! They had been living in a structure they had built by themselves with whatever materials they could find or afford, mostly used materials. The house was in such bad shape that parts of it had to be torn down in order to build the new house. The building site was isolated on a very steep hill, with no roads leading to it, getting the new building materials to the site was a challenge. When their new house was dedicated, the family, along with the mission team and members from **El Divino**, were so excited that the family finally had a safe place to live. Now the family doesn't have to worry that their home may collapse with them in it.

A mission team from **St Marks Lutheran Church** from Tacoma, Washington, lead by Pastor Jan Rudd, came on June 18-24. They were able to build four houses!



Pictured above is Carmelo, LBCM project coordinator and the Gomez family at their house dedication. Even though houses are being built, there is a great need for houses for families in Tijuana. Some families have been waiting for a house for two years and more.

### San Luis Colorado

Job J. is a lay leader in San Luis Colorado, Sonora state. He is about to graduated from college, majoring in Psychology. He still needs to complete his internship before he can get his diploma. Even though he is busy with school and not getting paid for his internship, he

and his brother, Filiberto, are taking care of four Lutheran churches in Sonora state. Along with them, Josafat, a lay leader from **San Mateo (St Matthew) Lutheran Church** form a team. Job leads the liturgy and preaches, Josafat preaches and teaches and Filiberto leads the music. Some of the churches are as far as 25 miles apart on roads that are in very bad condition and the gas prices are even higher than in the United States. They are working hard to bring the Word of God to many. Pictured below is Filiberto and Job.



### A Single Mom Gets a House

Juana and her daughter, Paula receives the blessing of a new house in Tijuana from **Brookfield Lutheran Church**. They had been living in the small room/outbuilding pictured to the left of the new house, below.



In the old house, Juana used a blanket in place of a door. Now Juana and Paula can sleep safe and warm in a house that can be used as their home and also a place dedicated to the Glory of God. Now they go to church on Sunday to worship and know that their house is safe in the hand of the Lord, thanks to the efforts of their brothers and sisters from Brookfield, WI. –R.C.

## Legna's Corner

This year has brought many blessings from God. Among these blessings is the opportunity to continue to support adolescents and their families by providing scholarships for the adolescents to further their education.

The Angel Scholarship Program is designed for adolescents going into junior high and high school. Many families in Tijuana are unable to fulfill all the economic requirements for the year of tuition fees and uniforms for school. This is why it is important for the Angel Scholarship Program to be able to encourage families in need so they can help their children in furthering their education for a better life.

This year the program will be helping in three different areas in the city of Tijuana. We have the most number of students being helped in the Maclovio Rojas area. It is a rural community, located on the north-east side of Tijuana. It is a neighborhood where teens and children are constantly influenced by drugs.

It is urgent that children and teens at risk in these areas know the great love God has for each one of them and the new hopes and opportunities that they can have if only they stay in school. The Angel Scholarship Program is a great example of how God uses different tools for people who do not know Him to hear and experience God's love directly.

We currently have 20 adolescents enrolled in the program, with the desire to have 10 more students by the end of this summer. Many of these teens have been in the program for over a year, others are new students, and all of them have learned to see God's presence in their lives. This has been the result of regularly attending scholarship workshops, for parents and children, and also by attending San Pablo (St Paul) Lutheran Church in El Maclovio which guides them in Christian values.

The Angel Scholarship Program is grateful for all the support given by sponsors and donors in the United States that have had the desire to impact and bless these young lives! Thanks be to God!

By Legna Lanza

## Youth Activities



Girls involved in the After School Program at the Youth Center in El Maclovio. In Mexico, the public school system has no after school programs at all. This after school program is helping children with homework and by providing art classes. We need donations of school supplies to keep helping the children in this program.



These children are enjoying breakfast during the Breakfast Program at El Redentor (Redeemer) Lutheran Church in Tijuana. Currently we have two churches running the Breakfast Program on Saturday mornings. At the end of August, two more programs will start in the western side of Tijuana.

Thank you for your support of these children's programs! We are counting on your continued support for running and implementing these and other important youth programs.

-R.C.

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backpacks pencils, pens, erasers, etc.  
White socks for children  
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## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

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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.