

SIouxLAND HISPANIC MINISTRY



Links in an Eternal Chain

Prayers

- For a safe trip for **Valia** as she visits her mother in Cuba.
- For **César** and **Beatriz** who have recently started a Bible class with me. Pray that the Lord would work through these studies to kindle and strengthen their faith!
- For **Ximena**, who will need a third heart surgery in the future.

For the Calendar

Our next quarterly Siouxland Hispanic Ministry meeting will be **Monday, December 6 at 6:00 pm.**

Add it to your calendar and come join us!

After our Spanish Divine Service in celebration of Reformation Day on October 31, we held a special “Trunk or Treat” event in our church parking lot for the first time. *Hope Lutheran* is surrounded by Hispanic families and we are always on the lookout for new ways to connect with our neighbors and build a reputation of trust and love in our community. We have seen the fruits of this approach slowly and steadily — three recent confirmands and two new Bible studies started with two of our ESL (English as a Second Language) students.

In addition to handing out treats and enjoying the clever costumes and decorated cars of several of *Hope's* members, we had a special drawing for two children's bikes and a scooter. As expected, the kids were very excited about the prizes.

The drawing *also* allowed us to reach out to the families afterward — the first step in building a relationship. Pictured above is **Ximena**, one of our lucky winners! She is ten years old, but very small for her age because she was born with a heart condition. She has already had two heart surgeries and need one more when she is older. Keep Ximena in your prayers!



Supporting Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

Thank you to the many congregations and individuals who continue supporting us with such generous gifts. If financially supporting a specific ministry is something you or your congregation have been considering, please keep us in mind.

Don't forget to add us to your daily prayer list!

Interested in Supporting?

If you'd like to support our Hispanic ministry in Siouxland, please send aid to the address on the bottom of the page. Please make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church with "Hispanic Ministry" on the memo line.

Thank you!



This month, I also had the opportunity to go on vacation to Mexico with my sister **Kaia** (left). We had a wonderful time together and it was a joy to get to know the country from which so many of *Hope's* Hispanic neighbors come. The majority are from the state of Jalisco — Guadalajara is the capital.

Kaia and I were in Mexico for the celebration of *Día de los Muertos* ("Day of the Dead"). Like many traditions, this celebration mixes elements of both pagan and Christian beliefs. The idea is that on November 1 and 2, the spirits of the dead are allowed to roam the earth. Your family members who have passed will come for a visit if you prepare an altar to draw them home: pictures of the family, colors and candles to light the way, and their favorite foods and drinks to entice them back. On the right, you see an example of these altars.

Experiencing this deeply-rooted Mexican tradition first-hand led me to preach a sermon the following Sunday clarifying the biblical position on "*saints*," how to "*remember*" them properly, and what happens at death. As with many ideas and customs, a careful diagnosis and precise discussion allow us to separate the elements of truth from false teaching. In spite of the much-needed clarification, it was certainly a beautiful time to visit the wonderful country of Mexico! I *highly* recommend a visit!





One *added* blessing during my trip was the chance to reconnect with two very close friends and brothers in the ministry: to the left, **Pastor Guillermo Leyva**, and below, **Pastor Nefta García Guevara**. Guillermo is now a pastor in Guadalajara while Nefta is in Mexico City. The three of us spent one year together in the Dominican Republic while I was on vicarage and they were in their second year of seminary studies. Now, thanks be to God, they are faithfully and diligently caring for our Lord's flock in Mexico. While with them, I had

the opportunity to see Guillermo lead a Bible study and Nefta preach. Hearing their faithful teaching and preaching, I was overjoyed to be reminded that Our Good Shepherd Jesus will certainly provide faithful under-shepherds for His lambs! Thank you Pastor Nefta and Pastor Guillermo for your faithful service! May our Lord continue to guide and bless your ministries!



May our Lord bless you and keep you. *Thank you* for your continued prayers and financial support of our *Siouxland Hispanic Ministry*!

—**Pastor Paul Flo**—