

SIouxLAND LUTHERAN HISPANIC MINISTRY



Water is Thicker than Blood

Prayers

- That our Lord would continue to keep **Valia** and her mother safe in Cuba.
- For **Juan**, **Yessenia's** son, who lives in Mexico.
- For **Ximena**, who will need a third heart surgery in the future.
- Thanksgiving for the financial stability of this special ministry in 2021. Pray that it continues in 2022!

For the Calendar

Our next quarterly Siouxland Hispanic Ministry meeting will be **Tuesday, March 1** at **6:30 pm.**

Add it to your calendar and come join us!

ast month, we had the joy of coming together with our brothers and sisters from *Storm Lake* and *Denison, Iowa*, for a joint Thanksgiving service (see the picture below and on the second page). **Pastor Pedro Lopez**, recently called to our area, led us as we were served by our Lord through His Word and Sacrament. Afterward, we enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast with a Hispanic flare: Cuban style roasted turkey, Mexican *pozole*, special drinks like *horchata* and *tamarindo*, and so much more.



When you are one of the few members of a budding Hispanic Lutheran Church, these moments of fellowship with others united in faith and culture are especially strengthening. In many cases, our Hispanic members are the *very first Lutherans* in their entire family history! In the face of criticism and accusations of leaving the “true church” (Roman Catholicism) from family and friends, you can imagine the amount of fortitude and conviction that these men and women have! In the words of one of our members, “*Oh well, I care about God’s opinion of me more than that of my family and friends!*” Jesus’ own words come to mind: “**Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and**

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!

whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37). And if *that* weren't challenging enough for us, Jesus completely *changes* how family is understood. In one occasion while He's teaching a group of people, His mother and brothers come to get Him. Here's what happens next: "[The crowd] said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "*Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother*" (Mark 3:31-35).

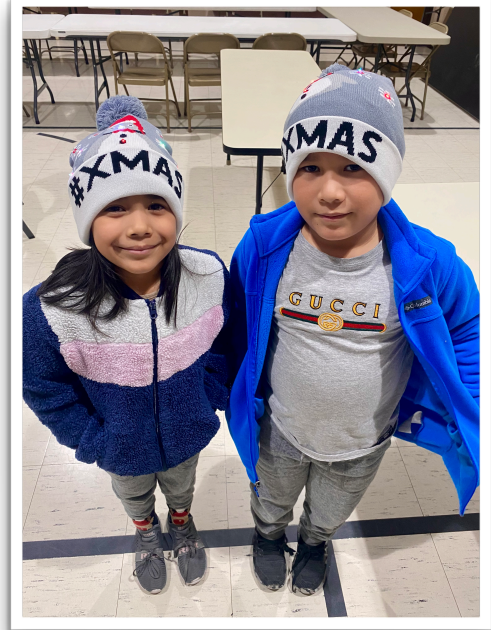
As members of God's family by grace through faith in Jesus, *our* family boundaries are also redefined. The popular saying would teach us that "blood is thicker than water." *To the contrary!* Blood ties last only a lifetime while our family of faith, born of *water* and the *Spirit* (John 3:5), will be our family for *eternity*!

We thank God for these faithful and bold Hispanic Lutherans who understand something that we *all* must understand as Christians: Through the *waters* of Baptism, we are bound to one another in a way the world cannot understand. *Water is thicker than blood!*





On **December 6**, we had an end-of-the-year potluck celebration with our ESL students and our *Hispanic Ministry Committee*. We sang Christmas carols, enjoyed good food, and had the chance to celebrate our work together over the last months. We congratulate our students for their hard work and thank our dedicated teachers who continue volunteering their time to serve our Hispanic neighbors through these English and Citizenship classes: Thank you **Liz, Paulette, Pastor Henry, Julie, Jackie, Lanette, and Ruthie!** We are grateful for you!



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**—