

In Mission

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

CNH Mission Newsletter

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CNH Hispanic Council

Growing as a Community in Hispanic Ministry

Rev. Mike Lange

The Hispanic Council met on May 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Watsonville, California with representation from Hispanic ministries in the CNH District. There was time for fellowship and support, which provided the attendees a chance to hear about change that God is bringing to Trinity. The changing face of the LCMS is especially visible in our CNH District. One example of this is the transition underway at Trinity, Watsonville. About 10 years ago, the congregation started praying about becoming a Latino congregation after the church's school closed in 2002. With the help of Rev. Stan Abraham, the transition started in 2009 when Felix Renteria was called as a vicar and later installed as pastor in 2010. In 2012, Felix resigned, but Trinity was still looking to continue its work. Juan Vallejo was assigned as their vicar in 2013. He has received the call to be their pastor and will be ordained at Trinity in August after graduating at the Center for Hispanic Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

After arriving in Watsonville, Juan went about making as many connections as possible in the community. One example was his contact with three children in a music class, teaching them to play instruments. As friendships and trust grew with families, their caution diminished. Juan comments on the slow work of creating trust.

"I can close off the relationship if I share too much too early about the church. I'm new here and serving the church, but I want them to know what's going on around here. I want them to be able to come and say, 'I have a friend ... and he is a pastor.'"



CNH District Hispanic Council

Growth as a Community in Hispanic Ministry

During our gathering in Watsonville, a presentation was made by Pastor Stan Abraham on the practice of Holy Communion in missionary ministry. A presentation regarding how we practice communion in this context was shared which will require ongoing discussion by those participating in the Hispanic Council.

Matters of missionary practice and pastoral care were shared as our Hispanic pastors considered their context and calling as missionary pastors. It was acknowledged that admission to the Lord's Supper may sometimes seem to be more about who is excluded rather than how we include people in the meal. Much of the ministry with our Latino brothers and sisters include those who have experienced rejection in a former church experience. It was shared that withholding the Sacrament at the table may be received as one more form of rejection. Integrity and careful and prayerful consideration, which is applied to pastoral care, was urged as each of our pastors go about this task.



Each time the Hispanic Council gathers, they join in fellowship, food, information sharing, and worship. Some of these times are only for the worker; at other times, the entire family and members of the congregation are invited. The next Hispanic Council gathering emphasizing church planting and missionary activity and emphasis will be led by Dr. David Kim on October 16-17 from LINC Houston. This presentation will be primarily in Spanish.

Pray for Hispanic Ministries Active in Our District...

Grace (Gridley, California) – Zabdi Lopez

Vineyard of Faith (Windsor, California) – Lonnie Felcher & Enrique Vallejo

Good Shepherd (Hayward, California) – Moises Morales (Aaron Putnam)

St. Paul (Mountain View, California) – Jose Cervantes and Aaron Smith

First Immanuel (San Jose, California) – Isaac Schuler

Grace (Santa Maria, California) – Magdiel Farjado

Trinity (Watsonville, California) Juan Vallejo

St. John's (Napa, California) – Luis Alvarado

St. John's Valley of Faith (Arvin, CA) – Trinidad Casteneda

Peace (Sacramento, CA) – Matt Peters

Trinity (Exeter, California) Efraim Vasquez and congregational leaders

If you would like to be a mission prayer partner for your congregation or are interested in Direct Missionary Support for one of our eligible missionaries, please contact Pastor Mike Lange, mike@cnh-lcms.org or his assistant, Glenna Sanlis, glenna@cnhcef.org.