



# The Red Door

May 2013

¡Macedonia!

A group of adults and youth from Emanuel Lutheran Church have just returned from Temple, TX where we just had the 2013 Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area Assembly. Our youth group in particular, along with Julia Hernández and María Torres, had a wonderful experience of ministry, volunteerism and missional work along with other young folks from several congregations. They worked stocking a local food pantry and visiting veterans at the Veteran Home in addition to having an outstanding participation during the closing worship of the assembly. They represented us very well! Check out the pictures and comments on their experience in the Facebook pages of Emanuel and the NTNL Mission Area.

At the same time, Leland and Melody Jones attended the assembly meeting as voting members. The three of us, had the chance of enjoying a wonderful series of Bible studies centered on the first century Christians in Macedonia and the Apostle Paul's ministry to their churches. Lead by Dr. Richard Carlson, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA, we heard about the evangelical mission to the Macedonians and their response to the gospel. Having received a vision of "a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'" Paul and a group of coworkers set out to go there "convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them" (Acts 16:9-10). That vision and trip started an amazing experience of discipleship, partnership and mission that would define the ministry of the nascent Christian church. The Macedonians not only received the gospel message with joy, they also supported the mission in other places most especially in Jerusalem. So much so was their excitement, that Paul used their commitment to encourage in turn the Christians in Corinth. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes: "We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part" (8:1-2). So you see, the story of the early Christians is one of inter-relatedness. What happens to one, affects the others. The churches in Jerusalem are all characters of the same message of love, forgiveness, and salvation that Jesus came to preach was known and spread.



We are also encouraged to form ministry clusters among our churches. This is what's called the Macedonia Project. We have received an invitation to share discipleship, build relationships, and grow mission; just in the same way that the early Christians did it. We will hear more about this church initiative in the weeks and months to come. On the meantime, just keep this in mind: "They gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us" (2 Cor. 8:5). Macedonia is calling!

Pastor Julio

*The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the body. Proverbs 15:30*

## Sunday School News

- Our First Communion students will be making their First Communion on Mother's Day, May 12<sup>th</sup> during the Spanish service. We will have a reception during fellowship, between the first and second service, to honor our students.
- Our Confirmation students will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be a special offering of talent and time, as our youth lead us in a bilingual service. A reception will follow in Erickson Hall.
- Our young children's choir will be offering a special gift of song on Pentecost Sunday. Donna Miller, our choir director, has asked that the children arrive to church by 10:00 a.m. in order to practice before the service. Donna has also asked that the children wear red for Pentecost.
- The final day of our children's Sunday School classes will be Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you, Barb Brault-Jordan*

April 2013

April was a month full of activities for our youth. Their first activity started on April 6th. They spent part of their Saturday cleaning the church and Ericson Hall.

On April 12th, the youth prepared a nice evening gathering for other youth guest and their leaders. The theme of the gathering was "Increasing Faith". They created three stations; Meditation Room, Chain of Prayers Room, and Give to God Room. At the end, all the worries that were written on a piece of paper were burned it as a symbol of letting go and then everybody received a lollipop with a quote from the bible.

The next day, Sama, Samier, Jose, Sonia, Elizabeth, and Alma attended the meeting of Ingnite Network : Encendiendo la Chispa, this time here in Emmanuel. In this gathering from our church Sonia was chosen president and Alma Cruz, secretary. The goal of this gathering was to come up with a project that would bring more youth to the church. They came with the idea of doing a festival in November. Since the meeting, Sonia and Alma have been working hard with other youth in planning the festival.

That same day the youth stayed for their month activity. The activity for this month was playing different kind of games. This time we didn't have as many guest as when the Movie Night but still had lots of fun playing, including playing with water balloons.

On April 26th, 27th, 28th, twelve of our youth took a trip to Temple, TX to help the community. They were well received in the church of First Lutheran Church by the leader of the youth group, Christian and other leaders. The next day they had to wake up early to help at a food pantry and a place not far from there, where the poor were receiving breakfast. After that they went to the park, had some fun and then picked up all the trash that was in there. Then by groups went to help to different locations. That night they had fun by competing against other youth in the Toga Party. Before their return to Dallas, Maily and Cecilia shared some of their experiences helping the community to the leaders of the NTNL Mission Area at the Convention Center.

The youth experienced many things this past month. They united more, took many new responsibilities and became a great team when helping others.

## May 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Financial Education Workshop 10 a.m.	2	3	4 11 a.m. Fellowship Hall Decoration
5 English service – 10	6 Hair Class – 1 p.m.	7 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	8 Financial Education Workshop 10 a.m.	9	10 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	11 Youth Group Game Night – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday School – 11:20	6:30 Council Meeting	ECC Board Meeting – 7 pm				
Spanish service – 12:15						
5 p.m. – Farewell to Zwernemann’s						
12 English service – 10	13 Hair Class – 1 p.m.	14 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	15 Financial Education Workshop 10 a.m.	16	17 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	18
Sunday School – 11:20						
Spanish service – 12:15						
19 English service – 10	20 Hair Class – 1 p.m.	21 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	22 Financial Education Workshop 10 a.m.	23	24 Creations of the Heart 9 a.m.	25
Sunday School – 11:20						
Spanish service – 12:15						
26 English service – 10	27 Hair Class – 1 p.m.	28 Food Pantry – 8 a.m.	29	30	31	
Sunday School – 11:20						
Spanish service – 12:15						

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## Birthdays for the Month of May:

2	Binh Van Ngyueg	15	Anabel Suzrez
3	Mari Cruz Suarez		Laura Hernandez
	Fernando Joseu Valdez		Brooke S. Valdez
	Randy Russell	19	Pat McDonald
5	Uriel Palacios	22	Lupe Torres Springer
6	Brenda Palacios	23	Jose Hernandez
10	Jose Palacios	24	Cleto Villafana
14	John Lidbury	26	Christian Trevino
		30	Jonah Michael Caldwell



We are looking for another soprano for the adult choir. The soprano usually sings the melody line so it is not as difficult as learning other parts. I am hoping some woman will consider helping our choir to have a fuller sound. Contact Donna if interested. Thanks."

*Donna*



## Announcements

**Flowers Offering** – Please check out the flower offering chart on the bulletin board in Erickson Hall. There are plenty of dates available for you to sign up for a date or two to bring flowers for our altar.

**Finances** – We will have a new round of financial education classes, this time in English. Look for the dates and times on the calendar. This class will cover money management, budget, savings, investments, and goal setting. Classes are free!