



Interesting Facts About Christmas in Mexico

+ The nativity scene is the centerpiece of a Mexican Christmas, even more so than a Christmas tree. Mexicans put out their nativity scenes on December 16, the night of the first posada, but they only place baby Jesus in the manger on December 24. They do not add the three kings to the scene until January 5.

+ A celebration called the nine posadas, which lasts nine days, begins on December 16 and ends on December 24. The period signifies Mary and Joseph's quest to find a place to stay. Each night during this time, a family in the town opens its home to the whole neighborhood to share food and drink.

+ Pinatas are used during most Christmas festivities in Mexico, including the nine posadas. On each night of the posadas, the host family presents a pinata for the children to try to break open with a stick.

Merry Christmas!

We pray that all of you have a blessed Advent and Christmas celebration. The light of Christ continues to be the hope amid a world enshrouded in darkness. "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5)

As always, December has been a busy month. In addition to the Advent and Christmas preparations the national church celebrated two exciting events: 1) The reception of a new congregation, Cristo Redentor, located in Tijuana, into membership of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. 2) A regional deaconess study conference took place in Tijuana.

President Isaac Garcia officiated the inaugural service of Cristo Redentor that took place on the first Sunday of Advent. In addition, four new members were received into the church through the rite of confirmation. After the service the members and visitors enjoyed a tasty fellowship meal.

From the 2nd until the 4th of December, Danelle Putnam, who serves as a career deaconess in the Dominican Republic, directed a deaconess conference in Tijuana for the women that live in the Mexican states of Baja California and Sonora. 15 women attended this event that served as a time for learning and fellowship. We give thanks to Danelle for an excellent conference. May the Lord continue to bless our Mexican deaconesses.

Members and visitors who attended the inaugural worship service of Cristo Redentor Lutheran Church in Tijuana Mexico.





We Pray For

- + A new mission church: Cristo Redentor Lutheran Church in Tijuana.
- + Missionary Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann as he recovers from a heart attack.
- + The family and friends of pastoral candidate Josafat Basto, of Sonora, Mexico who was called to his eternal home.
- + More mission partners for our mission in Mexico.

We Give Thanks For

- + The coming of the Christ Child.
- + The Deaconess formation conferences that took place in Matamoros and Tijuana, Mexico.
- + The prayers and financial support that make the mission in Mexico possible.
- + The Christmas celebrations that proclaim the Christ Child throughout the world.

Personal Notes

In the latter part of November, Ana visited a university in the Mexican state of Queretaro that is affiliated with Arkansas State University. The open house for prospective students went very well and Ana had a great time. Keep Ana in your prayers as she decides on her future.

We thank God for the mission in Mexico as we build up existing congregations and provide Biblical training for national pastors, deacons, and deaconesses. Prayerfully consider how the Lord may be leading you to support this vital mission. The Lord provides the funding for his mission efforts through the donations of His local churches and its individual members.

Through your financial donations national pastors and deaconess will be formed and mentored that they may spread the Gospel throughout Mexico. Together we partner with God to take the Gospel to the far ends of the earth. We thank you for your support of the mission in Mexico. Merry Christmas! May the Lord bless all of you abundantly in 2019!



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3)

Soli Deo Gloria

Daniel, Kathy, and Ana



Missionary Danelle Putnam of the Dominican Republic presenting at the deaconess conference in Tijuana, Mexico. We give thanks to God for these future Mexican deaconesses!



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