



Newsletter

Keeping in Mind Global Mission In South America

IELCH - Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Chile

On Sunday, May 21, 2017, Pastor Oscar Sanhueza Rodriguez was installed as Bishop of IELCH Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile. Theologian, Family Counselor, and Pastor in the Lutheran Congregation in Magallanes, Punta Arenas, Bishop Sanhueza was ordained to pastoral ministry in 1985. He studied theology at the CTE in Chile, at Superior School of Theology (EST, São Leopoldo, Brazil), Universidad de Los Lagos, Concepcion, Chile

Bishop Oscar is call to continue with the missionary emphasis of IELCH, but also to deal with church's sustainability challenges, at the congregational and the national levels. These challenges reform the ELCA accompaniment with IELCH as an expression of ongoing vocation into relationships of communion and mutuality; as witness in a broken world that longs for justice, peace and reconciliation.

IELCH decided to continue with its deep commitment to promote its diaconal ministry, through missionary and traditional congregations with deep vocation of service to the needy

Missionaries, from the ELCA predecessors church bodies (Alsop, Marckwardt, Hitshcock, Spath, Savolainen, Myrtle Wilke, Astacio) contributed in 1960's to the missionary and diaconal expansion of IELCH. Mission focus responded to the needs of the most vulnerable population: countryside migration to the city, families affected by the mining crises, crisis of education, health, transport, etc.

Bishop Sanhueza continues to serve as pastor of the Lutheran Congregation in Magallanes, the southernmost Lutheran Church in the world. He is married with Hildegard Linke, and both are parents of two sons and they have also one granddaughter.

Pastora Izani, continues her pastoral ministry in Good Samaritan Congregation, in Peñalolen, Santiago.



Good Samaritan Congregation, Santiago, Chile

Good Samaritan was accepted in 1974 as a IELCH member congregation.

Concern for the diaconal work was present from the origins of the church, helping those in need. The situation produced by the coup d'état and the later period influenced the congregation to arrive at a concept of integral mission considering the human beings in its wholeness and to look at itself as part of the Chilean society.

Good Samaritan Congregation is in Peñalolen, in the eastern sector of the city of Santiago. The vestiges of older humans are more than seven thousand years old, here lived one of the oldest tribes of the American continent. The Jesuits encouraged intensive agriculture and the arts and crafts in Peñalolen fields at Colony times.



The activities of the congregation are: Sunday Worship, Child Worship, Confirmation Classes, Bible Study Group; and a strong diaconal service with children, promoting holistic early childhood development. In the Good Samaritan Kinder Garden, children develop fully and happy, deploying their potential, with the opportunity to learn playing, deploying skills for life as transforming citizens of the world.

Rev. Izani Bruch is Good Samaritan pastor since 2013. Violence against women is one of the deep concerns of pastor Izani's ministry; she is a strong prophetic voice "From the Gospel we are called to change what generates injustice and unjust relationships" he says in words and deeds.

...may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us...

South American countries have emerged reasonably well from the 2008 global crisis and are now experiencing a period of relative political stability. Despite the relative progress made and the diversity of national contexts, there are problems, trends, and opportunities that bring new challenges.

Chile is a society that is struggling to accommodate a growing number of migrants from several Latin American countries. The number of foreigners with permanent residency in Chile has doubled in the past ten years, reaching the highest proportion in modern times.

Migrants have identified a new destination in Chile bringing in dreams of economic well-being, stability, security and real possibilities of regular income

Discrimination, labour abuse, and outdated immigration policies have made adaptation difficult for many thousands of Afro-descendants migrants from Haiti, Dominican, and Colombia, who are part of an economic migration story that is quickly moving up the political agenda before a presidential election later this year

The Afro-descendant population has been historically small in Santiago, so the marginalization and exclusion of this relatively recent influx of people from the African diaspora is a starting discussion. Also, is recently present in the agenda of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile.



These challenges call the church everywhere “*to be more appreciative of the gifts our new neighbors bring and of the barriers as well as the opportunities they encounter. It deepens our belief that “all people are God’s creatures, sinners for whom Christ died” and our responsibility to respect the human dignity of all. This is a fitting time for us to examine anew our attitudes toward newcomers, to strengthen our church’s ministry among, with, and for the most vulnerable of newcomers, and to continue to advocate for immigration, refugee, and asylum laws that are fair and generous*” Message on Immigration (ELCA, 1997)

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What are the stories of immigration in our congregations?

What is different and what is similar in the stories of people whose families had come from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, or the Middle East?

What is different and what is similar in the stories that come from a century ago and a decade ago?

YOUR SUPPORT

A COMMITMEMNT WITH GLOBAL MISSION HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

Give through your synod office or mail your check to:
ELCA, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merri-field, VA 22116-8009.

By credit or debit card:

<https://community.elca.org/Argentina-Uruguay>
or call 800-638-3522

ELCA missionaries have helped establish growing churches throughout the world. As a result, we are now part of a much larger story — a global community of more than 70 million Lutherans in 79 countries.

PRAAYER REQUESTS

-The Bishop Oscar Sanhueza, IELCH board, and pastors and communities, supporting their ministries

-The missionaries in Colombia:

-Curtis Kline and Katie Kline, serving in IELCO

The missionaries in Chile:

-Ryana Holt, serving in IELCH

-Karen Anderson, serving in EPES

-The IELCH Companion Synods: the Western Iowa Synod and the Indiana- Kentucky Synod, their Bishops, and the mission trip to Chile this month.

-The Rev. Raquel Rodríguez, leaving the position of Latin America Desk Director, after 15 years faithfully serving ELCA/Global Mission and Lutheran churches in the region.

-The Rev. Jaime Dubon, new Latin America Desk Director, taking office at the end of 2017