

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF REOPENING OF AUGSBURG LUTHERAN SEMINARY

This fall we are celebrating the 15th year of the reopening of our Lutheran Seminary here in Mexico City. The Seminary originally opened in 1964 but then closed in 1981 for a number of reasons. It remained closed until 1998, when the Lutheran churches in Mexico formally decided to reopen it on a smaller scale than before. I served as the first Coordinator of the Seminary from 1998 to 2005, when one of my former students, Rev. Moisés Pérez, assumed the position. In 2011, the Seminary's first woman Coordinator was chosen, Rev. Angela Trejo, another former student.

While our Seminary has remained relatively small in numbers, it has played an important role in the Theological Community of Mexico, of which it forms part together with several other seminaries and faculties. In the last couple of years, our program of online courses has grown steadily—we now have had over 350 students enroll in the courses since the program began in 2011.



One of the ways we celebrated the anniversary was to invite Edla Eggert, a Lutheran professor from Brazil, to give a presentation on "Theology from the Kitchen of Katherine von Bora" (Luther's wife). We enjoyed some food and reflected together on the role of theology in our everyday life and activities (see photos).

**OUR NEW PASTOR AT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

This past August, the congregation of which we are members here in Mexico City called a new pastor, Rev. Miguel Angel Solórzano. The position of pastor had been vacant since May, when Rev. Luke Roske-Metcalfe returned to the U.S.

We are very pleased that Rev. Solórzano was called. He is from El Salvador. We have known him since he came to Mexico as a teenager in 1990, when his family had to leave El Salvador because of the civil war there. His grandfather and three of his uncles were Lutheran pastors. One of them was assassinated by the Salvadoran military during the civil war. After spending over a dozen years in Mexico, he returned to El Salvador to receive training as a pastor and then worked for six years at a congregation there. A few years ago he returned to Mexico with his wife Antonia and their two sons. We are very blessed to have Miguel Angel as our new pastor.

Below is a picture taken on Reformation Sunday. Together with Miguel Angel (center) and myself are some of the liturgists whom I prepared. While originally they were trained to lead services during the church's vacancy, under Pastor Miguel Angel they are continuing to lead worship in both English and Spanish. We thank God for Miguel Angel's leadership and enthusiasm and look forward to working with him in the coming years.



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