

NTNL SYNOD FESTIVAL OF RENEWAL

What does it mean to be Latino and Lutheran? How can we bring together two identities that are often viewed as being very different from each other in order to continue forging a new identity? What can Latino and non-Latino Lutherans learn from one another as they do mission together? These are some of the questions I addressed at the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod's "Festival of Renewal" in Irving, Texas this past January 11, where I served as speaker.



Working together in Spanish and English, we reflected on how we can share the gospel faithfully in ways that enable it to transform the lives of people from different cultures and backgrounds while nevertheless valuing and preserving the history and heritage of each one.

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<http://www.seedsoftransformation.org/>

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HOMILETICS CLASS AND VISIT

One of the four classes I am teaching at school this semester is homiletics (preaching). We have 14 students in the class and I am co-teaching it with Prof. Javier Ulloa of the Baptist Seminary. Because most of our students work at congregations over the weekend, all but a few members of the class preach fairly regularly on Sundays. Teaching homiletics in this context is always interesting for me since the students come from several different denominations (in this semester's class, a total of eight different denominations and churches are represented). This leads to a great deal of variety in style and content. This variety, however, also enables us all to learn from one another and enrich our preaching.



This past couple of weeks we had a visit from Dr. Shauna Hannan, who is Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. Shauna (to my left in the photo) is on sabbatical and is traveling to several Latin American seminary settings to research how preaching is taught there. It was interesting for all of us to exchange ideas, challenges and experiences and to notice how these change from Shauna's context to ours in Mexico, even though much remains the same. It was a great growing experience both for the Homiletics class and for Shauna, who gained much here that she will be able to share back home with her own seminary students.

By the way, this summer I will be leading the preaching track for pastors at the ELCA Gulf Coast Synod's "Disciple Project," to be held from June 23-27 at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. If you would like more information, please visit: <http://gulfcoastsynod.org/events/dp/>.