



**Report to the Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana
Synod Assembly April 28-29, 2023
Director for Evangelical Mission Rev. Irma Bañales**

Amidst the varying pandemic realities, the ELCA looks ahead to the future. We aspire to have congregations whose faith shines in their relationships with God, each other, and their community. *Vital congregations* experience heightened worship, prayer, study of scripture, and sharing of testimony as they discern the presence and will of God in their midst.

NT-NL Mission

To raise up leaders who can model Christian discipleship, preach the Law and the Gospel, develop and grow communities of faith, work for justice, and welcome all to the table of grace.

Leadership

Leaders are essential to the mission of the Gospel. NT-NL is committed to developing leaders of all ages to serve, proclaim good news, and work for justice. This includes leaders in local congregations, as well as rostered leaders in the ELCA.

Visits & Consultations:

- + First Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church, Garland TX
- * Santa Maria de Guadalupe Lutheran Church, Irving TX (Under Synodical Administration)
- + San Gabriel Lutheran Church, Alvarado TX
- + Adviento New Ministry, Arlington TX
- * Walnut Hill Lutheran Church, Farmers Branch TX (Under Synod Preservation)
- + Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Granbury TX
- + St Paul Lutheran Church Levelland TX
- + Trinity Lutheran Church, Clovis NM
- + Central Lutheran Church, Dallas TX
- + New Hope Lutheran Church, Keller TX
- + St Matthew's Lutheran Church, Fort Worth TX
- + St Matthew's Lutheran Church, Waco TX
- + Grace Lutheran Church, Abilene TX
- + First Lutheran Church, Waco TX

+ NT-NL Mission Developers and Redevelopers monthly Meetings

2 Shared Ministry: Rev Moises Carrasquillo

- + First Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church, Garland TX
- + Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Irving TX
(under Synodical Administration)

3 Shared Ministry: Rev Nicholas Chove; Mission Developer & Redeveloper

- + Community of Hope Lutheran Church, Ft Worth
- + King of Glory Lutheran Church, Fort Worth.
- + (New Ministry) Umoja International Chapel, Ft Worth TX

New Starts:

- + New Ministry Adviento, Arlington TX. SAWL: Connie Ortega
- + Ecumenical New Start: kin-dom community, McKinney TX Rev. Pepa Paniagua
Grace Presbyterian (PUSA), ELCA and United Methodist Church.
- + Church of the Damascus Road, Weatherford TX. In transition.
- + The Table Gathering, Frisco TX. Rev Adam Stockton

+ New Exploration Ministry: Latinx Young Adult, PLM's- Mission Developers
Angela Alarcon & Lupita Escamilla

Leadership Formation: Trainings & Events

- + May: Four sessions for Facilitators Training Secondary School of Theological Education
12 leaders from five synods participated
- + May 17: Region 4 Latinx & DEM's virtual gathering
Build up relationship and Shared our context ministries.
- + May 24: NT-NL Synod Leadership Formation:
Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church in Brazil.
- + August 5-7: NT-NL Latinx Young Adult Encounter: "Fan the Flame" Mark 8:29
24 participants at Briarwood.
- + August 18: Ecumenical Event: Reality of the Housing affordability Crisis
Speakers: Christine Crossley and Joli Robinson
- + August 26-27: Latina Women annual Retreat: 55 women at Briarwood
Grateful to Mission Endowment Fund for their financial support.
- + Sep 21-25 ELCA Mission developers Training: English and Spanish. 2 NT-NL Synod
- + Sep 26-28 Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference 5 people from NT-NL Synod
- + October 10-13 ELCA DEM's Gathering
- + October 14 Santa Maria, Irving Leadership training
- + October 20 NT-NL RE-formation Congregational Vitality
- + November Latinx Couples Retreat, Jelly Stone, Burleson TX
- + Dec 10-11 Bishop Eaton: Santa Maria and San Gabriel, Virgen De Guadalupe Celebration.
- + Jan 28: NT-NL Renewal Team: Spiritual Feast Gathering, Advent Arlington

- + Teaching Spring and Fall Spanish Parish Lay Ministry Academy 12 students
- + Sep 3: Spanish Preaching Workshop: 21 participants.

Partnership ELCA and Ecumenical:

- + Lead & Luther- Listening Team
interviewed 30 people. Purpose to influence LEAD and Luther Seminary, working together to increase spiritual formation in our country specially with people of color.
 - + Dallas Fort Worth Ecumenical Group: Catholic, Episcopal, United Methodist, Grace Presbyterian and NT-NL synod.
 - + Holy Innovation Team: Revise Grants & financial support to Holy Innovation projects.
ELCA Christian Community & Leadership Home Area (CCL)
 - + ELCA Latino Strategy Team
Empowering and encouraging Latino leaders and congregations.
 - + ELCA Latinx Young Adult Team
 - + ELCA Spanish Coaching Team
 - + ELCA: Weekly Meetings Director for Evangelical Mission
 - + SOLI Board: Stewardship of Life Institute.
Provides grants to synods or institutions with new strategies specially to first call pastors.
 - + ELCA Mission Support Strategy Team:
Working on develop and implement strategies for sustaining and growing the MS that is shared by the congregations with synods and the churchwide expressions of the ELCA.
 - + ELCA Candidacy Working Group:
Recognizing that candidacy is a process of accompaniment and ongoing discernment that forms and prepares rostered ministers for public leadership:
- The candidacy leadership development working group will adapt the candidacy process of the ELCA, to serve the needs of the current and future church.
- + ELCA Mission Developers Training Planning Team:
equipping and training leaders for new ministries. English and Spanish.
 - + ELCA Level 2 Coaching training; mission developers, Stewardship and Grief & End of Life.
 - + August 22-24, Becoming Conference: service and Justice

NT-NL Congregational Vitality Table:

- + Manual Resources: Spiritual, Relational, Congregational Visioning, and Technology
- + Spiritual Feast & gathering Resource through the Labyrinth.

NT-NL Latino Conference:

- + Annual Women's Retreat
- + Young Adult Encounter
- + Boundaries Training
- + Annual Couples Retreat
- + Preaching Workshop
- + Puppet Workshop
- + Parish Lay Ministry Academy

*Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Irving.

We have identified leadership to be part of the church council.

At present time they are trained on the Lutheran Identity, ELCA & NT-NL structure, discipleship, and stewardship.

* Walnut Hill Lutheran Church closing service was on January 8, 2023. The property is in the selling process. Some of the members transferred their membership to First Sagrada Familia, Garland.

Blessings, Thank you/
Bendiciones, Gracias

In Mission Together/Juntos en Mision!
Rev. Irma Banales