

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be in the service of others. So use your gift well. 1 Peter 4:10

Discover and Use Your Gifts on All Saints Lutheran's 2012 Mexico Mission Trip



March 30 - April 7, 2012



The Mexico Mission Trip is a ministry of
All Saints Lutheran Church
www.allsaintsmtka.org



The Mexico Mission Trip Purpose

All Saints Lutheran Church provides opportunities for congregation members and others to participate in mission trips and other related mission programs. Since 1997, All Saints has taken intergenerational groups to Mexico to work and share God's love with the Mexican people. All Saints began going to Casa Hogar Elim orphanage in 2001. The purpose of the Mexico Mission Trip is:

- To share the Good News of Jesus Christ through relationships that we develop with the children and staff of Casa Hogar Elim, an orphanage in Nuevo Laredo on the U.S./Mexico border.
- To serve the children and staff of Casa Hogar Elim along with members of the poor communities surrounding the orphanage through children's ministry, feeding programs, and work projects.
- To provide members of the Mexico Mission Team an intergenerational mission opportunity where they can identify and develop their unique skills and gifts to be used for God's service.

Who can Participate in the Mexico Mission Trip?

- Adults (we've had all ages)
- Families (we recommend not bringing a child younger than ten)
- High School Students (9th – 12th grade)
- Youth (7th-8th grade) can travel with the group without a parent provided there is an adult who has agreed to be a "mission parent" for the youth on the trip.

To participate, you need to fill out a Mission Trip application with information about background, experience, and skills.

*It is impossible to go on a trip like this and not be in awe of God's awesome love. Besides being a great opportunity to serve and make new friends, it seems that this trip serves as a peek outside my personal box that is Minnetonka, Minnesota.
Mexico Mission Trip journal entry*



The 2012 Mission Trip "Dateline"

Nov. 13 '11	Mexico Mission Trip Information Meeting
Jan. 8 '12	Applications and \$150 deposit due
Jan. 8 '12	Mission Trip Preparation Meeting
Feb. 12 '12	Mission Trip Preparation Meeting
Feb. 26 '12	Mission Trip Fund Raising Breakfast
March 18 '12	Final Mission Trip Preparation Meeting
	Final Trip Payment, Health Form & Permission to Travel form due (Notarized form for minors)
March 30 – April 7 '12	Mission Trip

* The Mission Trip Information Meetings are a chance to learn more about the Mexico Mission, ask questions and hear from other former mission trip members about their experiences.

The Itinerary

March 30 (Friday)	3:00 PM	Meet at All Saints Lutheran Church Finish loading supplies, luggage, etc.
	4:00 PM	Departure from church – fast food dinner on road Overnight at Advent Lutheran Church Olathe, KS
March 31 (Saturday)	6:30 AM	Breakfast/Load bus
	7:00 AM	Brief Worship & Departure
	Noon	Lunch – fast food on road
	early evening	Dinner on the road Overnight at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Waco, Texas
April 1 (Sunday)	6:30 AM	Breakfast/Load bus/departure
	Noon	Lunch – fast food on road
	Early afternoon	Arrive Laredo, Texas Pick up and purchase supplies, and prepare bag suppers
	5:00 PM	Depart for mission site/cross border/travel to orphanage
	Evening	Arrive at orphanage/unpack bus/set up sleeping areas/clean kitchen
Sunday - Thursday		Work at orphanage, feeding programs in neighborhoods
April 6 (Friday)	8:00 AM	Leave orphanage Spend a couple of hours in San Antonio at the River Walk Depart from San Antonio & drive back straight through to Minneapolis
April 7 (Saturday)	5:00 PM	Arrive back at All Saints Lutheran

*After being at the orphanage, I've realized that I can live a much simpler life. Not buying so much stuff, not eating as much food, and not watching as much TV are only some of the things I can change.
Mexico Mission Trip journal entry*



What We Will Do on the Mission Trip

There are a variety of activities on the Mexico Mission Trip, which utilize the many different skills, and gifts that each person brings. These include:

- Children's Ministry events – music, skits, games, crafts, stories, puppets, etc. to share the gospel
- Building cleaning, repair and or improvement projects
- Preparing, serving, and cleaning up the meals for the children and staff *
- Preparing and taking meals out to surrounding colonias **
- Helping the staff in a variety of ways – cleaning, playing with the kids, holding babies, helping to bathe toddlers

*All mission trip members will be assigned rotational ***kitchen duty*** so that we all share in the food preparation and clean-up responsibilities

**All mission trip members can sign up to go out and serve at the feeding programs



Sample Daily Schedule at Orphanage

6:45 am	Breakfast Prep Servant Team starts breakfast preparation
7:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast served
8:30 – 10:00 am	Breakfast Clean-up
8:30 – 12:00 noon	Help staff with children, play with children, work on projects, shop for supplies, prepare food for lunch and feeding program.
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch served
1:00 – 5:30 pm	Lunch clean-up, play with children, work projects, leave for feeding stations, prepare dinner, purchase more water, children's ministry preparation, etc.
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Dinner served
6:30 – 9:30 pm	Dinner clean-up, children's ministry, etc.
9:30 – 10:30 pm	Mission Team meeting for sharing, prayer, announcements
12:00 am	Quiet time



Servant Teams

- Everyone is assigned to a servant team (6-7 people) for the trip. The purpose of the servant teams is to create some smaller groups to help everyone get to know each other as well as to serve as work crews for the meal preparation and clean-up. While servant teams are grouped to mix the ages, families can make a special request to be together. The expectations for servant team members are:
 - ✓ Encourage and support each other
 - ✓ Choose to have an attitude of patience, kindness and willingness to be flexible, particularly if plans don't go quite as we expect
 - ✓ Be willing to get involved in doing whatever needs to be done
 - ✓ Show up on time for your scheduled work and stay until the work is done
 - ✓ Monitor your rest at night so you can make a full contribution during the day. The primary reason we are at the orphanage is to engage with the children and community members.

Trip Preparation Teams

All Mexico Mission trip participants are asked to join one of four trip preparation teams and commit to some of the preparation efforts before we leave for the trip. These include:

Children's Ministry Team

Develop ideas for games, stories, crafts and projects including purchasing, preparing and packing supplies prior to trip.

Food Team

Develop menus and grocery lists for orphanage and outreach meals. Purchase and pack some foods in Minneapolis and organize purchases from Sam's Club in Texas. Help with purchasing the remainder of food and supplies in Laredo/Neuvo Laredo.

Congregation Liaison Team

Develop ways to communicate information about trip needs, collections for needed supplies, the fundraising breakfast, and prayer support to the congregation.

Project Team

Help plan for potential work projects including organizing supplies and tools.

When We Get to Mexico

Crossing the Border – The border crossing is sometimes unpredictable. Pack nothing that would cause us problems (toy guns, knives, etc.) at the border crossing. This is not the time for practical jokes – instead, remain quietly in the transportation vehicle and wait until you receive instructions. Have your birth certificate or passport handy and be prepared to remove your belongings from the bus for possible inspection.

Sleeping Arrangements – Bring a sleeping bag, pillow and some type of pad or air mattress. In general, the males sleep in one area and the females in another area. Sometimes, families can sleep together but this might not always be the case. Because of the group size and the need to get plenty of rest for the day's work, please be respectful and observe whatever quiet time the leader sets each evening.

Bathrooms & Showers – The primary difference between U.S. and Mexican toilets is that Mexican toilets are not built for flushing toilet paper. The Mexican tradition is to put used toilet paper into a can located next to the toilet. If toilet paper inadvertently gets put into the toilet (we all will forget once) it can cause a clog to the system and a mess. Daily chores include dumping the cans of used toilet paper and occasionally unplugging a

clogged toilet. Many people like to bring a small dispenser of hand sanitizer in case they use a toilet and cannot wash their hands.

You will probably have a chance to take only 1-2 showers during the week. So it is best to plan like you are going on a wilderness camping trip. Some people like to bring some body wipes to help themselves feel like they've freshened up.

Water – All the water we drink, prepare food with and clean up with is filtered water that we purchase in 5 gallon bottles. Everyone should have his or her own water bottle – preferably one that can clip to a belt so you can keep track of it.

First Aid Precautionary Measures – The group leader/medical person will have a first aid kit and will dispense items as necessary. All prescription medication needs to be in the original bottle and should be listed on the health form.

It is very important to only drink the filtered water and to drink plenty of it, as it is easy to get dehydrated while working hard in the warmer weather. Caution should also be taken to protect fair Minnesota “winterized skin” with sunblock, hats, and sunglasses.

Money and Valuables – Personal music devices will not be allowed at the orphanage. If you choose to bring them for the bus trip, you can lock them on the bus during the stay at the orphanage.

You will need money for approximately 10 meals on the trip down and back. For the most part, we stop where there are fast food choices. The exception is our stop in San Antonio where many people decide to eat out at a “sit down” restaurant.

In Mexico, you should have some \$1 & \$5 bills to purchase Mexican soft drinks, water and/or snacks if you choose.

Supervision – Please remember that the actions of our entire group are a witness to the people we serve while we are in Mexico. There are three rules we ask every team member to adhere to:

1. One of the things that people enjoy doing is taking an occasional break and walking a couple of blocks to the corner store. The rule is - No one leaves the orphanage alone. Adults can leave in pairs to walk to the corner store for water or refreshments. Young people must have an adult accompany them if they leave the orphanage. No groups should leave the orphanage after dark.
2. There are to be no females in the male sleeping areas or males in the female sleeping areas. The only exception to this rule is if couples or families are sleeping in the same area.
3. When the group leader announces a quiet time each night, it is expected that all team members will respect the time to allow others much needed sleep.

Items to Bring on the Mexico Mission Trip

Because of the amount of people and supplies that we need to transport, we ask each person to pack very lightly. Pack like you are going on a backpacking/camping trip – minimum clothes and just necessary supplies. Because you will be working with bleach (sanitizing dishes after each meal) and potentially doing work projects, bring old clothes that you won't mind getting stains on. Remember, focus on packing sparingly!

Item	Packed
Birth certificate with raised seal or passport	
Sleeping bag and pillow	

Foam or air mattress	
Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc)	
Towel and washcloth	
Flashlight (with extra batteries)	
Water bottle (Nalgene bottle that can clip on your belt)	
Prescription medication in original bottle	
Sunglasses & sunscreen	
Work clothes (no short shorts, tank tops, or tops that show midriff)	
Jacket or sweatshirt	
Bible, journal, and pen	
Camera and film	
Spending money for 10 meals on road plus some \$1 & \$5s for Mexico	
Work gloves & rubber gloves (for dish washing)	
Set of clean clothes for bus trip home	
Items for bus trip – book, personal music devices (this must be left in the safe at the Mission Station while we are at orphanage)	

Cost:

The cost of the Mexico Mission Trip is \$350 per person, which covers transportation and meals for the time we are at the Mexico orphanage. In addition, each person needs to bring money for approximately 10 meals on the road (most of these will be at fast food type restaurants). While we are at the orphanage, there is an opportunity to buy snacks, water, and Mexican soda at a local store – it is best to bring some \$1 & \$5 bills for this purpose.

Please see Pastor Antonio Machado if you need financial assistance with the cost. Assistance includes opportunities to raise funds through candy sales.

Contact or Questions:

Please contact Pastor Antonio Machado at All Saints Lutheran Church. You can reach Pastor Antonio by email (amachado@allsaintsmtka.org) or by phone (952-934-3550).



*Before making the decision to go on the trip, I had lots of information. I have to say however, nothing compared to the reality of actually being on the Mexican Mission trip. The organization of the trip was phenomenal - the travel arrangements, meal planning, outside work projects. I had a feeling of purpose there. At no time did I feel unsafe or without caring new friends to lean on and talk with at anytime. We are "family."
Mexico Mission Trip journal entry*



Mexico Mission 2012 Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Grade (if youth) _____

E-mail _____

Any past mission trip experiences? _____

Gifts and talents you have to share _____

What are the primary reasons you would like to go on this mission trip?

What are your expectations and hopes for this trip?

What are your fears and concerns?

Please describe a “growth edge” for you?

Flexibility is key to mission work. What special challenges might you have?

Do you have any special medical training? _____

Do you speak Spanish? _____ If so, how well? _____

T-shirt size _____

Trip Preparation Teams (Please indicate your choice by a checkmark)

- Children's Ministry Team
- Food Team
- Congregation Liaison Team
- Project Team

Parents of minors: Are you in support of your youth going on this mission trip? _____

Will you make every effort to get him/her to the planning meetings? _____

Transportation – registrations are limited by the number of seats on the bus. Please indicate your tentative travel plans for our transportation planning.

- I plan to travel on the bus both ways
- I plan to fly both ways
- I plan to travel on the bus to the orphanage and fly home

Summer 2012 Trip

- I am interested in a summer trip to the orphanage, too, possibly in June
- I am interested in chaperoning for a summer trip (must be at least 25)

**Please return application, health form, code of conduct and a \$150 deposit
by January 8, 2012 to All Saints Lutheran Church
Cost for the trip is \$350/participant**

**The final trip payment and notarized permission to
travel form (for minors) is due by March 18, 2012**

**All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Blvd. – Minnetonka, MN 55345 – 952-934-3550**

Permission to Travel

Mission Trip to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico March 30-April 7, 2012

I, the parent/guardian of _____ have given permission for the above named youth to travel and participate in all activities surrounding the Mission Team Trip to Mexico, sponsored by All Saints Lutheran Church. The above named youth has my permission to travel from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Mexico, following the plans of the itinerary, which I have read. I understand that this trip also includes crossing into Mexico. The leaders of this trip have my permission to transport the above named youth across the Mexican/American Border.

In consideration of the opportunity for my child to participate and fully recognizing that such an undertaking involves an element of risk, we assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation and do hereby release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless All Saints Lutheran Church, their agents, employees and officers, and the chaperones, leaders, organizers and sponsors, and persons transporting our child to and/or from these activities. Neither All Saints Lutheran Church, nor any of said persons shall be held financially responsible for any injury, illness or death incurred as a direct result of this activity.

(sign in the presence of a notary public) By signing the above statements, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the above statements.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

Allergies/Medical Conditions of which we should be aware: _____

Medications to be brought to event and when taken: _____

I, the parent/guardian of _____ do hereby authorize medical treatment for the above named youth, in the case of an emergency, during the above-noted event, sponsored by All Saints Lutheran Church. In the case that I am unable to be reached, I hereby authorize the leaders of this trip to act on my behalf, in securing medical treatment for the above named youth.

(sign in the presence of a notary public) By signing the above statements, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the above statements.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

PARENT(S) NAMES _____



TO BE COMPLETED BY NOTARY PUBLIC ONLY

State of Minnesota, County of _____

Signed or attested before me on _____

By _____

Signature of notary public _____

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND NOTARIZED BY LEGAL PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF THE YOUTH ATTENDING THE TRIP. IF PARENTS ARE DIVORCED, AND THE ABSENT PARENT STILL HAS CUSTODY RIGHTS, HE/SHE MUST ALSO SIGN AUTHORIZATIONS.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT(S) NAMES _____

HOME PHONE# _____

WORK PHONE# _____ WORK PHONE# _____

CELL PHONE # _____ CELL PHONE # _____

OTHER EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PHONE _____
(If a parent cannot be reached.)

MEDICAL INSURANCE COMPANY _____

POLICY NUMBER _____

Health History

Name _____ Age _____ Gender _____

Birth Date _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone (____) _____

Doctor's Name & Phone _____ (____) _____

Immunizations: DPT _____ Polio _____ Tetanus Booster _____

Conditions: Asthma _____ Epilepsy _____ Diabetes _____ Heart Trouble _____

Other _____

Allergies: Insect Stings _____ Hay Fever _____ Penicillin _____

Other _____

Food Allergies: Please list

Please list all medications (including over-the-counter or non-prescription drugs) taken routinely. Bring enough medication to last the entire time. Keep it in the original packaging/bottle that identifies the prescribing physician (if a prescription drug), the name of the medication, the dosage, and the frequency of administration.

_____ I take NO medications on a regular basis. _____ I take medications as follows:

Med #1 _____ Dosage _____

Time taken _____

Reason:

Med #2 _____ Dosage _____

Time taken _____

Reason:

List others as necessary on other side.

Serious accidents, injuries, or other important information about special needs we should have:

Code of Conduct for Mexico Mission Trip Team Members

Because the purpose of this trip is to be servants of God to each other; the staff and children of Casa Hogar; and other people we serve in Mexico, my behavior and actions will reflect Christian morals and standards. Therefore:

- I will be mindful that this trip is about serving others, not myself.
- I will be respectful of all my team members and work to resolve any differences.
- I will take responsibility to clean up after myself on the bus, at the churches we stay at, and at the orphanage.
- I will not initiate or participate in any behavior that is confusing or suggestive toward others. Healthy boundaries demand that we have very intentional, sensitive interaction with the children.
- I will not use disrespectful, foul, or inappropriate language.
- I will not use any tobacco, alcohol or drugs. (Adults may choose to have an adult beverage with lunch in San Antonio.)
- I will respectfully follow instructions from the group leaders on the trip.
- I will be responsible to get adequate sleep so that I am ready to serve as needed.
- In the churches and while we are at the orphanage, I will follow the rules about not being in the sleeping quarters of the opposite sex.
- I will abide by the curfew and be in my sleeping quarters by 12:00 midnight.
- I will take responsibility to check the Mission Trip Communication Center to see when my Servant Team is assigned for food prep and/or clean-up. I will be on time to check in with my Servant Team leader for these times and will not leave until all work is completed and I have checked out with my Servant Team leader.
- I will take responsibility to be on time for and participate in the evening group and Servant Team meetings.
- I will never leave the orphanage alone. If I leave, it will be in a small group with at least one adult and after we've let others know we are leaving.

Print Name: _____

Signed: _____

Parent Signature for Youth under 18:

