

EL CHAIRO BOLIVIANO

The Bolivian Stew

JUNE 4, 2012

Monthly Events

April



- “Capacitating God’s People” Project Skype Conferences
- Pastoral Council (COPA) Meeting
- ISEAT Academic Council Meeting
- Preaching at the Martin Luther Congregation, IELB
- Teaching English I, Greek II, and Church History I



Eber now reads and eats at the same time!



The Jamaica Market in Mexico has just about anything you would want to buy from flowers and piñatas to meat and vegetables!



MÉXICO D.F.

TASTING NEW FOODS

AN EXPLORATION OF FLAVORS

While in Mexico for the “Capacitating God’s People” Project, I tried many new foods and fruits. From top left to bottom right: Corn bread (kind of like cookies); Amaranth bar with different types of nuts, cranberries, raisins, and seeds; Lychees; Dragon fruit.

A REFLECTION ON PSALMS 104:24-34, 35B

Beginning my journey to Mexico at 3:30am, the taxi drove quickly up the mountain. It was cold and I watched as the lights of the La Paz formed into rivers illuminating the city I now call home. I arrived at the airport while it was still pitch black, boarded my plane and decided to sleep. I awoke several times during the flight when the stewardess offered something to drink, only to see the darkness. Landing in Columbia, my flight’s connection to Mexico, I saw green expanses of land spotted with trees creating a beautiful contrast to the rugged mountains, which are different from those I’m accustomed to seeing in La Paz. The majority of my flight from Columbia to Mexico was cloudy, but from time to time the

clouds lifted and I could see beautiful lakes and the outline of the earth from so far up above. I felt so small, thousands of feet above the land that extended for miles. I thought about how long it would have taken me to arrive in car and how big the ocean really is. As my plane landed in Mexico, I left the world of clouds and returned to reality. I appreciated the moment I was given to reflect on all that I had seen.

At the seminary, I was greeted by my colleague and invited to dinner.

(Continued...)



"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you."

John 13:34



Monthly Events

May

- Final Exams
- Preaching at Messiah Methodist Church- La Paz, Bolivia
- "Capacitating God's People" Project Skype Conferences
- "Being a Man in the Bible" Workshops
- "Capacitating God's People" Project Mexico Trip
- "Lutheran Liturgy and Worship" Textbook Finished and Published
- "Power in the Church" article for the "Fe y Pueblo" Magazine
- "Capacitating God's People" Project Website Creation Meeting
- Celebrating Mother's Day Twice!



Eber surprised me for my first Mother's Day with breakfast in bed (I think he may have had help!), an adorable card that he drew and a bracelet he picked out of the store wrapped in finger painted newspaper. Mother's Day in Bolivia is on May 27th so I was doubly honored this year. I'm so thrilled to be a mom and truly love my little angel.



"...I tell you that there is hope, there is hope in the peace of Jesus Christ that nourishes and strengthens our faith. With this faith and peace, we can understand what a person from a concentration camp during World War II wrote on the wall: 'I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I do not feel it. I believe in God even when God is silent.' Brothers and sisters, have faith in the resurrection and peace of Jesus Christ, even when you're afraid, even when you have doubt, because it is our faith that sustains us."

Pastor Justin Eller

A REFLECTION ON PSALMS 104:24-34, 35B

Coming from the winter months of La Paz, I relished in the warm climate and the gentle breeze that refreshed not only my body, but my soul. The next morning, I awoke to the song of small birds, my eyes feasted on flowers both exotic and familiar, I took in the sunshine and was at peace.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our earth is expansive and all of creation is intricately woven together. In all of our lives, we will never be able to fully describe with words the wonders of our God. Everything comes from God and God cares for everything. As it is said in the Psalms, when we are sent God's Holy Spirit, we are renewed.

Every church around the world is complicated; there are divisions and challenges be it in the history of the Church, politics, families, culture, theology, languages, etc. Sometimes, like my trip, we can only see the darkness, but it is in those moments when we need to remember most that God is present even when we cannot see the wonders around us. We know that in our lives there will be times when God's path for us is not so clear, but we have a guide in Jesus Christ who is our light. God grants us renewing peace and every day continues to teach us something new, enlivening our spirits and reminding us that we are loved. This week, I invite you to take time to enjoy God's creation. Let it renew you, inspire your work and ministries and give you hope. Love, *Kari*

“Capacitating God’s People” Mexico Trip 2012

May 20-28, 2012, Carmen Rivera and I worked alongside Ángela Trejo Haager, Karina



García Carmona and Abel Gutiérrez Pérez to write a plan that seeks to lift up Christian education, strengthen Lutheran identity and begin the process of sharing invaluable resources in Spanish amongst fellow educators. It is our hope that you see the fruit of this work in the near future.



Devotionals Every meeting we had either began or ended with a devotional. We found this time dedicated to reflection invaluable and guiding in our work.



Bible Study We also were able to visit Christ Lutheran Church and attend a bible study. Both Carmen and I were very impressed with the amount of participation from not just one or two members, but everyone. Hearing different ideas and experiences from the youth to older members enriched our conversation and brought scripture into our everyday lives.



IGLESIA LUTERANA SANTÍSIMA TRINIDAD Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (ILM)

...“The silence that Jesus suggests to us is not the absence of words, but rather the presence of new words not yet spoken. It is a silence that guides us to the truth, because in the silence we hear things that we could not hear before. Today we celebrate Pentecost. We celebrate the arrival of that silence that permits us to have new and distinct voices. In the midst of our hardships and pains, the silence permits us to hear what we did not hear before because what is revealed to us in silence is confirmed in the words of the teacher: In the world you will have suffering; but trust, I have come to the world.”

Karina García Carmona
Pastor at Iglesia Luterana Santísima Trinidad,



About the Church...

The Lutheran Church “Santísima Trinidad,” celebrated in the month of February it’s 40th anniversary. The Church has 40 members, that work in the areas of education and biblical reflection. It is also beginning a music ministry and is working with women in a capacitation role.



From left to right: Carmen Rivera, Karina García Carmona, Kari Fisher Eller



"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:32



Monthly Events

June



- Celebration of Soledad and Esteban's Wedding
- Continued Work on Article for Justin's Finland Trip
- Website work for the "Capacitating God's People" Project
- Continued Work on the Lutheran Institute's Global Gift Project
- Continued Work on Sunday School Material
- Spending Time with Our Families on Vacation

"Lutheran Liturgy in Context: Theology and Practice" by Justin Eller in collaboration with Loyda Uri



Justin and Loyda's new book will officially be presented June 6, 2012 to the IELB. The book contextualizes and affirms the principals of his first book on Bolivian Lutheran identity as it reflects on the theological opinions that make us different and that constitute a unique way of following the risen Jesus. In this second book, he seeks to highlight characteristics of our communal celebrations. This book is the visible fruit of the work of many Lutheran pastors, congregational leaders, and members, that throughout the history of the IELB, have sustained the church in creative ways. The book itself is an enormous thanks to all of them.



SOPOCACHI BOLIVIA

"Being a Man in the Bible"

"SER VARÓN EN LA BIBLIA"

May 14-18, 2012 Justin facilitated a workshop called "Being a Man in the Bible." Eight people gathered from the Methodist, Lutheran and Catholic Churches to explore this topic together in a non-traditional way. The workshop was a success and we invite you to explore this topic in your own congregation using the Bible references below.

BEING A MAN IN THE BIBLE MEANS...

Being Compassionate

(Luke 7:1-10)
(Acts 3:1-11)
(Acts 8:26-39)
(1 Samuel 18:1-9, 19:1-9,
20:1-42)

Being Faithful

(Matthew 2:13-23)
(1 Samuel 3:1-21)
(Genesis 22:1-14)
(Acts 9:1-22)
(Job 13:5; 19:1, (23)-29)

Being Radical

(Exodus 5:1-18)
(Acts 6:1(8)-15, 7:54-60)
(Mark 2:1-12)
(Mark 10:46-52)

Being Scandalous

(2 Samuel 11-12:1-23)
(Genesis 25:24-34,
27:1-41)
(Matthew 26:14-16,
20-25, 47-52; 27:1-5)
(Genesis 34:1-31)

Compassionate, Faithful, Radical and Scandalous Jesus

(John 11:17-36)
(Matthew 9:35-38;
14:13-21)
(Mark 14:32-43)
(Matthew 23:1-34)
(1 Corinthians 1:18-2:8)



[HTTP://KARIELLER.WEEBLY.COM](http://karieller.weebly.com)

Excerpt Taken from Justin's Blog

Good chilly afternoon from LPB! Lately we have been preparing to make our vacation trip home to visit family and introduce our son



to his US family. The suitcases have been organized, the piles of considered clothes laid out, the toys, snacks and in-flight entertainment carefully chosen and tickets purchased. But one thing that I keep procrastinating on is preparing myself mentally and emotionally for the visit "home."

(Please visit his blog to continue reading.)

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Prayer of the day for June 3, 2012 taken from: <http://www.elca.org/lectionary>

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