

# EL CHAIRO BOLIVIANO

*The Bolivian Stew*

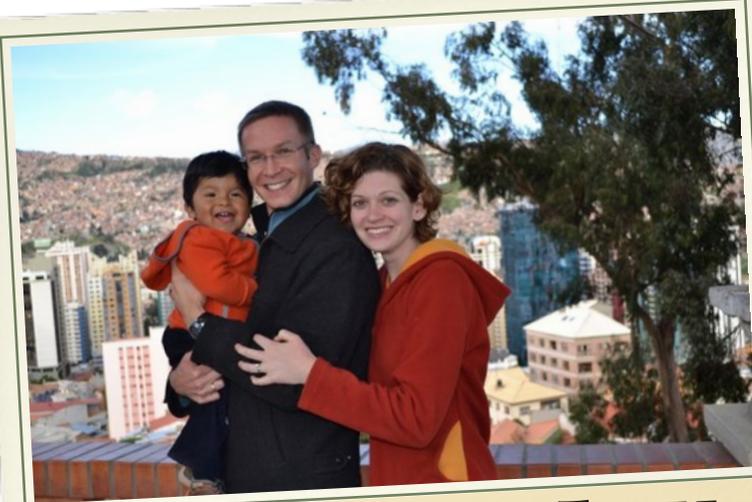
MARCH 27, 2012

## Monthly Events

### January



- “Capacitating God’s People” Project Trip to Santiago, Chile
- Adoption
- Visit from Justin’s Parents
- Celebration of Justin’s 31st Birthday
- Preparation for the New Trimester at ISEAT
- Maternity/Paternity Leave



EVERETTE JOSEF ELLER

### AND TWO BECAME THREE

THE NEWEST ADDITION TO OUR FAMILY

*On January 12, 2012 we welcomed into our family our son, Everette Josef Eller (Eber José). God has blessed us with this little person for us to care for and shower with love. Life as we know it has changed for the better and we are better because of his presence in our lives.*

### “NOT COUNTED” BY JUSTIN ELLER

The story of Matthew 14:13-21 that is also found in the Gospels of Mark, Luke and John, is commonly known as “Jesus Feeds the Multitude” or “The Feeding of the Five Thousand.”

Usually, the majority of people can recite this story from memory never forgetting the five important pieces of bread and two fish (v.17), Jesus blessing and sharing the food (v.19), the twelve baskets full of leftover pieces (v.20) and the five thousand men that ate (v.21a). But often what is forgotten is the compassion that Jesus had to heal the sick that were present (v.14), the location of the solitary place, or rather the rural area (v. 15), the disciples’ intent to send

the multitude away to the village hungry (v.16) and that there were more than five thousand people gathered that day (v.21b). As such, the feeding, Jesus, the leftover pieces and the men are remembered, while the sick, location of the event, the hunger of the multitude and the women and children are forgotten.

When asked a question about which miracle was performed that day, the common answer is: “the miracle of multiplication” referring to verse 19.

(Continued...)



# “Not Counted” by Justin Eller

This answer is based in what is written in black letters on the page and not necessarily on the history that exists in the white spaces between the letters, the story behind the text.

In the story of Jesus feeding the multitude, the letters tell of the multitude that followed him on foot, but the spirit indicates the faith and hope of the towns in pain looking for healing. The letters tell of the disciples not wanting to share their food, but the spirit indicates the attitude of Jesus when he demands them to feed the rest. The letters tell of how many men were present, but the spirit indicates that if we count the women and children, that the number of mouths was probably more likely around 30 to 40 thousand.

Many times people read the Scriptures as they see the world around them. There is the obvious of life that is seen or recognized and there is the unconscious of life that is not seen or recognized. In the United States there is a saying: “out of sight, out of mind” that means if something is not seen it is not remembered, thought of, contemplated, prayed for, taken into account. We take this into account even in our classes at ISEAT. At the end of the trimester, how many students know the names of their other classmates? Or perhaps even worse, at the end of the trimester, how many professors know the names of all the students they teach? In our congregations, religious communities and churches how many people are recognized, remembered, taken into account?

Then, there is the matter of who is forgotten in our midst. Who are the people around us that are identified as those “not counted”? Who are the people that fight to be seen, heard, loved, fed and not marginalized by society, the church or other organizations? Is the man without a

home sleeping in the streets worthy of a greeting as he passes by... does the battered woman think that prostitution is the only choice she has... are the abandoned children in orphanages visited... are the sick without medical insurance cared for with justice and prayer... are the migrant workers picking the United States’ produce paid a fair, just, living wage... is the student with learning difficulties in high school helped with appropriate modifications? The list of those “not counted” goes on.

As people of faith, sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, it is our call as Christians to see and count those who are not counted and to be in solidarity with them. From one day to the next, it is possible that one goes from being counted to being part of those who are not counted. May we always be mindful of those most forgotten and of ourselves if we do not notice our neighbor, because God is radical with a mercy and love will never forget those “not counted” (Isaiah 49:15).

*This article was written for the biannual informative bulletin published by ISEAT. It will be available in Spanish on ISEAT’s website sometime in the near future.*



Photo taken from <http://www.chavez.cde.ca.gov>



Photo taken from <http://www.localwin.com>



Photo taken from <http://www.gothamgazette.com>



Photo taken from <http://www.thecord.ca>



Photo taken from <http://www.salem-news.com>



Photo taken from <http://nataliegraceluo.blogspot.com>

*"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16*



**MARCH 27, 2012**

## Monthly Events

### February

- This trimester, Justin is teaching Church History 1 and Greek 2 and I am teaching English 1
- Skype conferences with the "Capacitating God's People" Project
- We welcomed ELCA Pastors Stephanie and Paul Erdmann from Minneapolis, Minnesota who were passing through Bolivia while on their sabbatical
- Justin finished the first draft of his new module on "Lutheran Liturgy in Context"
- Began Eber's paperwork
- Translated the article "Religion Does Not Redeem: Theological Reflections About the Role of "Religion" Today" written by Josef Estermann



The youth in our congregation have decided that they would like to fully lead worship services the first Sunday of every month! Here, they are acting out the Gospel reading inspiring us all!



A SPECIAL VISIT

PASTORS STEPHANIE AND PAUL ERDMANN

IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA  
"MARTIN LUTERO" 2012

### AN EXCERPT FROM JOSEF ESTERMANN'S ARTICLE

"We can, then conclude a not casual synchronicity between the postmodern planting in the West and the ancestral concept (pre-modern) of the indigenous cultures, respect to the theme of "religion." The crisis of "religion" in modernity (or hypermodernity) is a crisis of institutionality and its dogmatic monocultural character. Postmodernity (Western) and indigenous "spirituality" aspire to liberate that which is "religious" of this stronghold that demands the established "religions" and their theologies. Only that the motives differ toto coelo, given that Andean "spirituality" is not the result of a disconnected individual rebellion, but rather the expression of a millennial collective wisdom.

What is required today in a context such as Latin America, is not so much a "theology of the religions" or a "theology of religious pluralism," but rather a "theology of religion," a "theology of the religious fact" or a "theology of that which is religious." Even though a "theology of the religions" is a part of the fact of constituted and institutionalized "religions," a "theology of religion" reflects the role of "religiosity" (as anthropologic existential) in the salvific plan, it is to say respect to the construction of the reign of God, the integral liberation, the personal illumination, the eschatology, depending on the case."

*“So God created humankind in God’s own image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them.”*

Genesis 1:27



MARCH 27, 2012

## Monthly Events

### March



- IELB Directive Council Meeting
- ISEAT Academic Year Inauguration
- Skype Conference with David Wunsch, Latin America Regional Representative for the ELCA
- “Capacitating God’s People” Skype Conference with Raquel Rodríguez, Latin America and the Caribbean Continental Desk Director and Stephen Deal, Central America Regional Representative for the ELCA
- World Prayer Night Worship Service
- Ser Mujer en la Biblia (To Be a Woman in the Bible) Saturday Workshops
  - Ecumenical Theologians in La Paz Lunch Meeting
  - Father’s Day in Bolivia
  - Continuing Eber’s Paperwork
- Hosting Cecilia Paredes from the Lutheran Church in Chile



### A Year of Service



This year, Cecilia will be working as a volunteer with the IELB helping out in the girls’ boarding house “Verena Wells” in Caranavi.



SOPOCACHI BOLIVIA

## “SER MUJER EN LA BIBLIA”

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Sarah, Hagar, Keturah, Rebekah, Leah, Zilpah, Rachel, Bilhah, Dinah, and Tamar were a few of the women we studied in the Old Testament who are often understudied and unheard of. These women were not quiet, but challenged the world around them.

### FATHER’S DAY IN BOLIVIA- MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012



ISEAT held a special dinner for Father’s Day this year and invited Justin and I to participate. This year, we feel doubly blessed to be able to celebrate two Father’s Days and two Mother’s Days and to be a mother and father to such a great kid!



# World Day of Prayer: Malaysia

## March 2, 2012

**W**orld Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.
- It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

Information on WDP is taken from <http://www.worlddayofprayer.net/>



Reflecting with Pastor Erlini Tola of the IELB, Justin preached the following on Luke 18:1-8.

“The widow is like an abandoned little girl: without a family, without an identity, without resources, without an inheritance, without justice. The abandoned little girl lives in the margins of society, sometimes hidden behind systems, doors and walls, even behind a conventional name. And where is justice for her? Where is her voice...shouting and crying alone, hoping for someone to care for her? Who is fighting for her? Who is telling her “I love you”? Who is listening to her prayers? Many sisters in our churches suffer like the abandoned little girl, like the widow always fighting for space, for a voice, for justice. God is not like the unjust judge.

In Sirach 35, “When orphans and widows pour out their prayers, he does not ignore them. The tears running down a widow's cheek cry out in accusation against the one who has caused her distress...The prayer of a humble person goes past the clouds and keeps on going until it reaches the Lord Most High, where it stays until he answers by seeing that justice is done.” Yes, our God in Jesus Christ is in the margins; crying, praying, shouting with those that are there, demanding justice and at the same time, Jesus is with us in solidarity each day of our life when we encounter injustice. I tell you, God always is in favor of life and a radical justice.”

# You Can Be Involved In Supporting The... IELB Central Office Communication - La Paz, Bolivia

**T**oday, one of the biggest concerns of the IELB Central Office is the lack of communication and information distribution, both nationally and internationally. This concern was acknowledged in the IELB's institutional evaluation in 2010. At present, the IELB is paying for adequate Internet service (512 kbps), however due to the antiquated cabling and equipment being used, communication is difficult. To simply attach a word document to an email often takes over 30 minutes and having a Skype conversation with video is almost impossible. The IELB currently does not have a firewall service or updated virus protection software, therefore, numerous if not all of the computers in the Central Office have viruses.

With Internet service and equipment brought up to speed, information can be shared more easily and frequently between the president, vice president,

secretaries, office personnel, local pastors, congregations, district presidents and committees. Important files will also be routinely backed-up on a central server, thus avoiding losing documents essential to the Church as has been the case in the past. While it is possible to provide project documentation, reports and correspondences to accompanying institutions and churches, the renovation of Internet services and equipment will mean that less time of IELB administration is spent in attaching documents and photos to emails and more time spent dedicated to the needs of the Church. The Central Office of the IELB is involved in international coordination for events such as workshops and visits. Having adequate Internet services and equipment will allow the IELB to communicate both effectively and efficiently with the exterior through an improved and actualized webpage, email contacts and Skype conversations.



This cabling is typical throughout the entire building. Often the cords connect from room to room on the outside of the building constantly exposed to the elements.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Make a Donation

The total project cost is \$3,864.29 to:

1. Re-cable the building
2. Establish an adequate equipment/server room
3. Clean all of the viruses off of the computers, establish a firewall, routine back-up program for all church documents, and update software programs

To help support this project financially, all funds should be sent in the form of a check directly to the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA. **ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY IS APPRECIATED.**

**If you would like to help sponsor this work, please contact:**

Missionary Sponsorship, Attn: Rev. Twila Schock, [twila.schock@elca.org](mailto:twila.schock@elca.org)

Reference: IELB Central Office Communication

# You Can Be Involved In Supporting The... The Galilee Lutheran Center - Cobija, Bolivia

**S**ince the Galilee Lutheran Center has been established in Cobija, Bolivia, members have incorporated the values and morals taught through programs and ministries into their families and their nutrition has improved. However, a moment has come in which the Center needs help. Children comprise the majority of the congregational membership and although they give their offering each Sunday, the present needs of the Center and congregation no longer fit within their budget. With financial help in the areas that follow, the Galilee Lutheran Center will be able to expand its services to members and the community and be more sustainable by producing fruits and vegetables and beginning a bakery.

## **Area 1: Religious and Academic Education**

Objective 1: Provide Bibles to the congregation

Objective 2: Provide liturgy and Lutheran identity resources to the Center

## **Area 2: Nutrition-Sustainability**

Objective 3: Feed those in need by beginning healthy food programs

Objective 4: Teach congregation members a vocation

Objective 5: Receive an income from baking and selling breads and regional products such as cuñapes and almond cookies

## **Area 3: Infrastructure**

Objective 6: Fix parts of the temple and Christian educational building in need of repair

Objective 7: Provide a secure location to store books, kitchen utensils, etc. (bookshelf with doors and locks)

Objective 8: Bring electricity to the temple

## **Area 4: Communication**

Objective 9: Improve communication with the IELB Central Office by installing a telephone line



Pastor Luis Blanco leading the children in a song during worship. The children come to the Center every day for homework help, to study the Bible, recreation, etc.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### To Make a Donation

The total project cost is \$4,098.00 to:

buy materials and equipment associated with the above mentioned areas and objectives. A detailed budget has been provided to the Latin American and Caribbean Desk of the ELCA for each item to be purchased. To find out more information about the itemized budget, feel free to call Paulina Nisbet-Dasse at (773) 380- 2653.

To help support this project financially, all funds should be sent in the form of a check directly to the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA. ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY IS APPRECIATED.

**If you would like to help sponsor this work, please contact:**

Missionary Sponsorship, Attn: Rev. Twila Schock, [twila.schock@elca.org](mailto:twila.schock@elca.org)

Reference: IELB Galilee Lutheran Center



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

## Excerpt Taken from Justin's Blog

...With all of this contextual reality here, I want to be the kind of father who fights to be a good father, so that other Bolivian fathers (and mothers) can see that

it's okay for dads to love their children and be compassionate and caring and nurturing and understanding. I want to teach Eber that being a dad means being a strong, responsible man who plays on the floor with his kids and sings silly songs, makes goofy faces, dances around, can cry, and can cradle his kids. I want to teach him that becoming a dad isn't easy, but the fight to be a good one is totally worth it.



*Pour your grace into our hearts,  
O God, that we who have known  
the incarnation of your Son, Jesus  
Christ, announced by an angel,  
may by his cross and passion be  
brought to the glory of his  
resurrection; for he lives and reigns  
with you, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Prayer of the day taken from:  
<http://www.elca.org/>

## EL CHAIRO BOLIVIANO

*The Bolivian Stew*

[kfeller5@yahoo.com](mailto:kfeller5@yahoo.com)

[justin.eller@elca.org](mailto:justin.eller@elca.org) (Justin's new email)

*To unsubscribe at any time, simply reply to the email you received from me with "STOP" in the message title. I'll take your name off the distribution list as soon as possible.*

### JUSTIN AND KARI ELLER

Casilla 7408  
La Paz - Bolivia  
Sudamérica