



LATINO MISSION SOCIETY
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LATINO
MISSION SOCIETY

Bringing the Message of Eternal Life in Jesus Christ to Hispanics/Latinos in Michigan

**LATINO
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- We expect to be at our new location by March of 2008. At that time, our new address will be:*
- 1450 McKinstry St.**
- Detroit, MI 48209**

About LATINO . . .

The **LATINO MISSION SOCIETY** is committed to passionately sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Together with you, **LATINO** takes the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) seriously. Our mission is *Bringing The Message Of Eternal Life In Jesus Christ To Hispanics In Michigan*. In partnership with you, **LATINO** continues to reach out to Hispanics with the good news of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Please include the ministry of **LATINO** in your daily prayers.

LATINO is an independently funded Christian mission society, affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (but not funded by the LC-MS). **LATINO** receives the majority of its support from generous friends like you. **LATINO** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your donations to **LATINO** are tax deductible and may be sent directly to **LATINO MISSION SOCIETY**, 7725 West Vernor Highway, Detroit, Michigan 48209, or use your credit card at www.LATINOMission.org.

LATINO also participates in **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™ GivingPlus® Program**. Multiply your gift by submitting the *GivingPlus®* Member Gift Form. For more information go to www.LATINOMISSION.ORG or call us.

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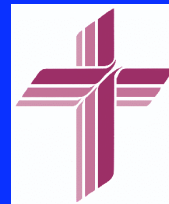
Lutheran Action Team Improving Native (Hispanic/Latino) Outreach

Special Edition
January 2008



Mission Statement

Bringing the message of Eternal Life in Jesus Christ to Hispanics in Michigan



Bethlehem Lutheran School



“Rebirth at Bethlehem”

As we celebrate the Christmas Season this year, the familiar words from Luke chapter two are still fresh in our minds:

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!

More than 2000 years ago, a baby was born in the small town of Bethlehem outside of the city of Jerusalem. It was a humble beginning. With no room left in the inn, He was born in a stable. He had no soft pillow on which to lay His head, only the straw of the feeding trough for the stable animals. His birth was announced by the angels of God to poor shepherds who were his only visitors. But this small baby, born to a carpenter and his young



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

fiancée, was more importantly **born of God**. He is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the Savior of all humankind.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School in Southwest Detroit had its beginning, its birth, in 1887. Dedicated on April 11, 1887, Bethlehem has served her community and reached out with God’s love for more than 120 years. In 1920, she served



Main Altar

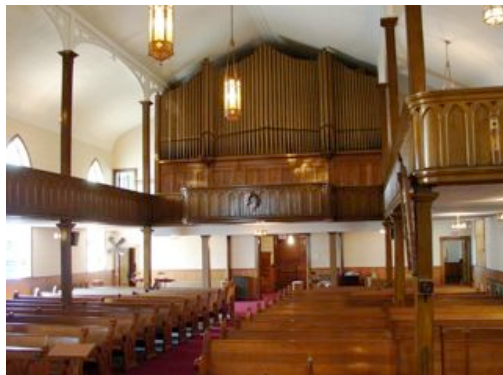
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2000 members! Over the years, Bethlehem Lutheran School educated more than 2000 students! Bethlehem is one of the oldest Lutheran Churches in the city of Detroit still serving the Lutheran community. It is located in the heart of Detroit's Mexicantown, one block off of Clark Park.

Through much prayerful consideration, the remaining members of Bethlehem have decided that to continue her Lutheran heritage and her outreach to the predominately Hispanic community, it is time for a transition in ministry, a "rebirth" of sorts. This rebirth includes relinquishing the ministry of Bethlehem to the LATINO Mission Society. LATINO has been ministering to the population of Southwest Detroit for more than ten years now from a storefront location. The church and school facilities at Bethlehem will provide a sanctuary for worship and additional space for ministries that will aggressively and intentionally reach out to the Hispanic community in Southwest Detroit.

The rebirth will take place under the name, *Iglesia Luterana Pan de Vida en Belén* (Bread of Life Lutheran Church at Bethlehem). LATINO's intention is to honor the rich heritage of Bethlehem as the Lord carries her into a new era of ministry.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is an enormous "L"-shaped sanctuary. There is seating for at least 1000! The main altar is angled in the corner to face both the main nave and transept. The original chancel furnishings were replaced in 1940 by furnishings carved by a member who was a master woodcarver. Beside the pulpit is the baptismal altar, which was dedicated in 1950. There is a wrap-around balcony that surrounds the entire perimeter of the nave and transept.



Main Nave

The woodwork throughout (pews, altar furnishings, etc.) is dark, rich and beautiful. The organ, originally installed in 1916 and updated in the 1940's, boasts twenty-seven speaking stops distributed over three divisions: Great, Swell and Pedal. One thing the church building does not have is plumbing; that is, no drinking fountains or bathrooms.

The school building is also very spacious with over 14,000 square feet of ministry space. It has three floors. The second floor (top) has an auditorium with a stage at one end. The auditorium is as large as a basketball court. There is also a full kitchen, additional rooms and storage space. The first floor (street level) has six large classrooms, each with several large storage closets. There is also a small kitchen. The basement has several rooms, bathrooms, a shower room, and mechanical rooms. The highlight of the basement is a bowling alley with four lanes!

Our neighbor to the South of the church is Maybury Elementary School (Detroit Public Schools). The student body is 75% Hispanic which gives you a good sense of the demographics of the neighborhood. Maybury is not the only Detroit Public



South Transept

School within our ministry area.

God has given us the opportunity to redesign our outreach ministry in Southwest Detroit. We are redefining our vision for ministry and dreaming about the possibilities for the future. Initially, we are focusing our attention on letting our new neighbors know **we will be moving in and beginning worship and some ministry programs in March 2008**. Our dream is to begin an "Academy of the Arts" in the school building. This would provide classes for adults during the day and after school programs for children. The "Arts" would include language, computer, music, drama, dance, and sports to mention a few. We will be relying on God's grace and many volunteers from area and suburban congregations to make this a successful outreach. We will be open to other ideas as God moves us forward and supplies many gifted volunteers.

We ask that you keep this transition in your prayers. The members of Bethlehem are excited about the transition. They expressed their excitement in the following words:

The Congregation of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1450 McKinstry, Detroit know our prayers have

been answered. The mission started in 1887 to spread the Word of God to all people, but particularly to establish a Lutheran Church, and serve the people in the Southwest Detroit neighborhood. The community will continue to be served by the LATINO Mission Society (affiliated with the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod and the Michigan District) which will move from its present address on Vernor Highway to the church and school buildings on McKinstry.

As the members of Bethlehem relinquish the ministry to the LATINO Mission Society, we share with LATINO the need to continue the Lord's work in this neighborhood and will be happy to see the church and school active once again with Christian programs.

At the same time, it is not easy for them to say "Goodbye" to a place that has been, for some, their lifelong church home.

LATINO is looking forward to an eventful 2008 with a new beginning, new ministry space, an expanded ministry area, and many new opportunities to **Bring the Message of Eternal Life in Jesus Christ to Hispanics in Southwest Detroit and throughout Michigan**. LATINO will be faced with many opportunities and challenges as the potential for new ministry multiplies at this new location. If you would like to be a part of this ministry with your prayers and support, you can visit www.LATINOMission.org for additional information, email info@LATINOMission.org, or call LATINO at 313-841-2377.

P.S. We will announce the date for the Service of Reaffirmation ASAP.