

Mexico

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MISSIONS



Since the 1960s, WELS World Missions has been working to share the gospel in Mexico. For many years, the efforts of missionaries focused on seminary instruction, counseling congregations, and assisting in the establishment and operation of the national church.

The fruits of those efforts are seen in the *Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Confesional (IELC)*. The congregations in Mexico are widely scattered. The members of these large congregations are doctrinally sound and thoroughly Lutheran, gathering regularly around the means of grace. They are served by 6 pastors and 2 pastors-in-training.

As the national pastors have taken over what *had* been the work of the missionaries in their national church, much of our work in Latin America generally and Mexico specifically has turned to finding new fields ripe for the harvest by reaching as many people as possible through online efforts and social media. This work is called *Academia Cristo*, and allows us to share the gospel with many, many people. A great many of those people are in the region's most populous country, Mexico.

Since we in no way want to leave that work behind, we are entering a new phase of our partnership with the existing church body. Soon we will have no missionaries living in Mexico, for the first time in many years. However, we will continue to communicate with and support our brothers and sisters in Mexico as we transition to a new stage of our work together.

Our missionaries moving to other fields corresponds with the national church in Mexico taking important steps towards supporting itself. Recently, the IELC took a significant step as its leaders adopted a plan to support their own ministry and outreach within five years. As our Latin American missionaries are focused on new opportunities for the gospel throughout Latin America, the congregations in Mexico are training their members in biblical stewardship of time, talents, and treasures so that they can continue to be beacons of the gospel in Mexico into the future.

Praying for Mexico

Please pray that God guide and protect the members and pastors of our sister church in Mexico, Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Confesional, as they live in a country currently affected by a drug war; and that God bless the efforts of Academia Cristo in Mexico as our Latin America missions team reaches out with the gospel through online training and social media.