

Meeting Minutes Pacifica Synod AMMPARO 12.5.2020

Attendees:

Pastor Karla Halvorson, Pastor St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Deacon Roberta Wall, Pacifica Synod
Pastor Nate Allen, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Jeff Jacobson, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Winona Garcia, Survivors of Torture, International
Esmeralda Vences, Our Savior's Lutheran Church San Diego
Laura Carreon, Our Savior's Lutheran Church San Diego
Terri Robertson, Pacifica Synod
Linda Howard, Our Savior's Lutheran Church San Clemente
Karla
Susan Connors, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Donna Johnson, San Marcos Lutheran Church

Opening Prayer

Jeff read the Draft Mission Statement for Pacifica Synod AMMPARO:

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO provides advocacy and support services for asylees, refugees, and Migrants seeking asylum regardless of country of origin. We seek to work with other ELCA Congregations and local and national agencies to assist Migrant families in accessing services they may need during and after the hearing process, conducting fundraisers to assist families during transition, communicating emotional based support such as writing letters to Migrants in detention centers, advocacy work with local and national official and supporting Migrant shelter facilities in Mexico.

The goal is to have a final Mission Statement approved at the **February 2021** meeting. Comments are welcomed.

Esmeralda shared the final numbers for the first batch of tamales which exceeded all expectations. The final gross number was \$6,092 with \$908 material costs bringing the net to \$5,183! Our ultimate goal is \$7,000 net. The family is willing to make a second batch with orders taken up to and including December 11. Tamales can be picked up starting December 16. A new link follows.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tamales-sale-tickets-130622275743>

Esmeralda introduced her sister, Laura Carreon, to the group. Esmeralda translated Laura's story starting in Mexico and troubles with the police harassing her and her family. That caused them to seek asylum. They recently received a green card so they can seek employment. The

money earned will go to feed and clothe her family. She is honored that Pacifica Synod has promoted the sale of the tamales for their legal fees.

Deacon Roberta discussed the grant application that the Synod could submit to ELCA AMMPARO for a maximum \$5,000. The funds can't be a pass through to another organization but rather used for training congregations in assisting migrant families in our communities. A group consisting of Roberta, Jeff, Pastor Nate, Winona, Terri, Linda and Nicolette Rohr will collaborate over the next two weeks to submit an application by 12.31.2020. Roberta is lead.

Winona provided an update to their services and specifically addressed the need for cards that are sent to their clients at Otay Mesa Detention Center. Guidelines for cards are attached to this email.

Jeff talked about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) Hope for the Holidays project. Participating congregations can send Christmas Cards to LIRS that will be distributed to families in four ICE Detention Centers. If interested cards need to be mailed by Friday December 11.

<https://www.lirs.org/take-action/hope-for-the-holidays/>

Jeff summarized the Border Summit that was sponsored by the San Diego Episcopal Diocese. It was very well attended. The Keynote Speaker was Jon Huckins from Global Immersion, a San Diego based non-profit promoting peace. His organization collaborates with Casa Del Migrantes in Tijuana. Another speaker, Dulce Garcia of Border Angels gave a compelling presentation about conditions migrants experience when crossing the desert. Two CBP agents discussed their roles in arresting undocumented migrants. Links for Global Immersion and Border Angels follow. Jon Huckins presentation is attached. Take time to read his four step process to become a peacemaker.

<https://globalimmerse.org/>
<https://www.borderangels.org/>

Closing Prayer

Next Planning meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2021 at 1000. All are welcome.

Next Pacifica Synod AMMPARO meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2021 at 1000. Please join as we learn and grow together in assisting our brothers and sisters.

Link for both of these meetings is below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81577110996?pwd=SzdBUGpOR25tOFo3U1ZWWlZPRmFHdz09>

