

2025 Annual Report: Walking Together in Faith

A Season of Growth & Transition



In 2025, our Companion Synod committee expanded both its reach and relationship, renewing our shared commitment to the theology of accompaniment. Walking shoulder-to-shoulder with our Lutheran siblings in El Salvador, we navigated a landscape marked by structural shifts, rich cultural exchanges, renewed bonds of brotherhood, and collaborative grassroots ministries.

Synodical Milestones & Accompaniment

Leadership Transition: In January, we celebrated the historic installation of Bishop Guadalupe Cortez, who now presides over the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. A delegation representing several Greater Milwaukee Synod churches journeyed to witness this milestone. Alongside our Salvadoran brothers and sisters, in March 2025 we grieved the passing of founding Bishop Gomez and celebrated the enduring promise of resurrection

The Encuentro: In November, we gathered for the triennial Encuentro, a forum for international collaboration alongside global partners from Germany, Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. This year's consultations focused heavily on the challenges of the "State of Exception" (martial law), regional migration realities, and the implications of the new Foreign Agents Law on local ministries.



Parish-to-Parish Partnership Highlights

The core of our accompaniment model lives with in local communities. Below is a snapshot of the friendship, solidarity, shared grief, and collaborative ministry that occurred across some of our sister-parish relationships during 2025.

All Peoples (Milwaukee) & St. John's (Brookfield) with Los Héroes

- **Mission of Healing:** Officially blessed and opened the Deb Adams Community Health Center. Staffed by a full-time nurse and student nurse, it provides weekly doctor consultations and ongoing health education.
- **Education for Life:** Hosted a celebratory reunion dinner with 13 program graduates. Continuous support ensures sustainable scholarships and "Family Circle" Christian education.
- **Days for Girls:** Distributed approximately 400 specialized menstruation kits along with critical reproductive health education to local youth.
- **Financial Impact:** Total outreach gifts represented a historically significant portion of the parishes' general giving.

A SEASON OF GRIEF & REMEMBRANCE

We hold in deep prayer the families of those we lost this year: Miguel, Julia, and Pastor Sonia, vital leaders who served as the spiritual "glue" of the Los Héroes community; and Bob Adams, a visionary founder of the Mission of Healing whose profound legacy lives on through the newly opened clinic.

Atonement Lutheran (Muskego) with Espiritu de Paz

- **Student Support:** Sponsored 49 students ranging from Kindergarten through University levels, representing a significant long-term academic investment in the community's youth.
- **Hygiene Ministry:** Partnered with Unity Church to expand the Mission of Healing (MOH) Southern Region initiatives, distributing handmade "Days for Girls" kits crafted by the women of Atonement.



Ascension (Waukesha) with Milagro de Dios

- **10th Anniversary:** Commemorated a decade of formal partnership in August with a multi-generational delegation of 24 travelers, including 7 college-age and 7 elementary-to-high-school youth.
- **Shared Experiences:** Hosted artists from the Fernando Llorca gallery for a community-wide art project, coordinated a field day for local children, and studied sustainable environmental projects along-side our partners.
- **Future Planning:** Actively exploring new ways to support education as well as agricultural development, specifically cacao farming, to build economic self-sufficiency.

Holy Cross Lutheran (Menomonee Falls) with Manantiales del Desierto

- **Sister Parish Visit:** Following an extended pause driven by pandemic barriers and logistical challenges, a small delegation visited the community in January 2025 to renew face-to-face bonds.
- **Education for Life:** Funded 32 students within the church community, directly covering tuition and essential school expenses.
- **Nutrition for Life:** Fully supported an ongoing health literacy program alongside the regular distribution of nutritional foods to local families.

Lake Park Lutheran (Milwaukee) with Llano el Coyol

- **Sister Parish Visit:** A cross-generational delegation of six (consisting of 4 adults and 2 teenagers) traveled to the community in November to strengthen relational ties. *Our visit included a visit to a sea turtle project.*
- **Investment & Infrastructure:** Sustained 4 active university scholarships and co-funded a major structural expansion project to add a permanent kitchen, modern bathroom facilities, and a secure storage unit (bodega) to the church building.

Galilee
with El Renacer de Los Martires
(Mons. Romero)

- **Education & Events:** Provided dedicated funding for backpacks for 64 local youth and sponsored four major community celebrations and religious education events.
- **Church Infrastructure:** Contributed capital for a new Altar, church doors, and windows, executed in close collaboration with Mission One World.
- **Mission of Healing:** Provided strategic funding and volunteer backing for the Mission of Healing event in the Southern Micro-region during February.

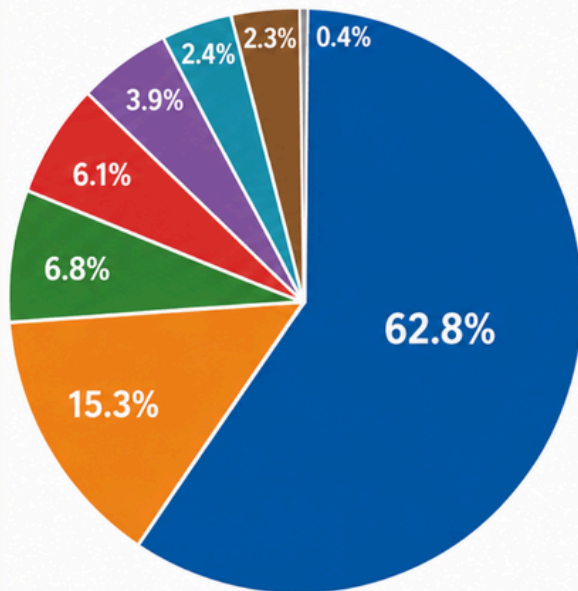
St. Matthew's Partnership Update (2026)
with Pan de Vida

- **Relationship Renewal:** After a six-year pause necessitated by COVID-19 and complex logistical variables, a group of twelve adults and college students successfully completed a renewal visit to El Salvador in January 2026.
- **Community Reconnection:** Reconnected with their partner congregation, Pan de Vida, through shared worship, neighborhood community walks, and youth activities to lay the groundwork for a revitalized bond.
- **Looking Forward:** The partnership is currently designing a robust student scholarship program and actively organizing its next delegation visit scheduled for January 2027.

GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD EL SALVADOR COMMITTEE

2025 Expenditure Breakdown

Supporting Our Partners in Faith and Ministry in El Salvador



Total 2025 Expenditures:
\$189,525.24

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	AMOUNT (USD)	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Scholarships, education & student support	\$119,103.00	62.8%
Facilities, repairs & construction	\$28,992.79	15.3%
Parish/ministry operating support	\$12,920.00	6.8%
Health, medical & nutrition	\$11,600.00	6.1%
SLS admin/tithe & Synod support	\$7,344.30	3.9%
Encuentro registrations & gatherings	\$4,490.00	2.4%
Community support, supplies & celebrations	\$4,287.00	2.3%
Website/admin reimbursement	\$788.15	0.4%
TOTAL 2025 EXPENDITURES	\$189,525.24	100%

Together we share God's love and build hope in El Salvador.