



## Newsletter 2017

Rev. Norman Finke

Koinoneo Independent Mission Agency

109 Noel • Waxahachie, TX 75165-1333

Telephone: 972-935-8017 • nfinke\_kima@sbcglobal.net

www.kimamission.org

December 2017

'Twas the week before Christmas, when all thro' the house  
Many a creature was stirring, even me and my spouse; The  
stockings were hung by the chimney with care, and we are  
off to Houston to be with our loved ones there.



I pray that each and every one of you gets a chance to be  
with your loved ones as we celebrate the One Who loved us  
enough that He sent His Son, tiny, itty-biddy Jesus, to be born in a lowly manger,  
grow into manhood doing the things you and I couldn't do, and then died on a  
cross on a hill far away. And wonder of all wonders, He arose so that He could  
spend an eternity loving on you.

**That's the reason for the season. Celebrate it!**



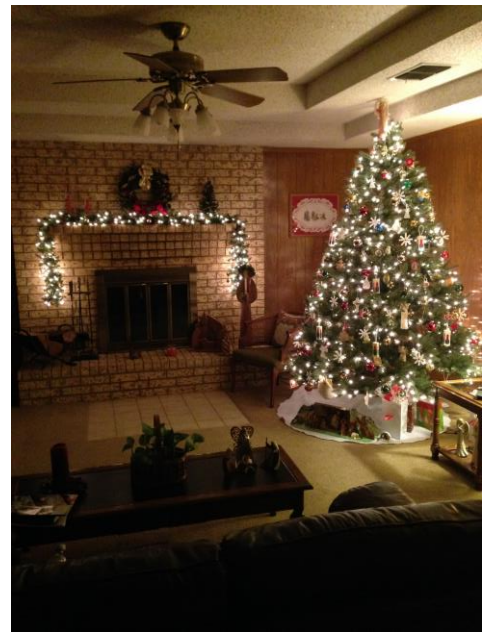
We do want to wish you all a most merry and blessed  
Christmas! Unfortunately, life just keeps going on at  
what seems like an ever-escalating pace even when we  
try to slow down for a few minutes to bask in the glory  
of God our heavenly Father.

I guess the real problem is that we allow ourselves to  
get caught up in it. Instead of finding a quiet corner or  
sitting quietly in front of the fireplace as we settle back  
and contemplate and give thanks for all the gifts our  
Heavenly Father has given us, the love of Jesus Christ,  
and the gift of  
eternal life and  
peace that He so freely offers us, we run about buying  
gifts, decorating our homes, wearing ourselves out to a  
frazzle, trying to do what we think is right but missing the  
point altogether.

According to Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about  
anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



Prayer and thanksgiving seem to be pretty integral to receiving the peace of God. This is not the peace that we try to conjure up but the peace that only God can give. Our peace doesn't quite cut it. It's a good start, but when the going gets tough it fails us. It is the peace that comes from God, the peace that is a result of our salvation. The peace that comes from being in a right relationship with God is not the peace of this world. The world's peace depends on having favorable circumstances: if things are going well, then we feel peaceful; when things go awry, the peace quickly dissipates. Jesus made the distinction between His peace and the world's vacillating peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives" (John 14:27).



When you place your full confidence in a loving God and are thankful in every situation you will possess a supernatural peace. An "inner calm" will dominate your heart. You will know peace—your heart and mind are "guarded" by it—despite the problems that seem to be all around you. No one, especially those outside of Christ, will be able to understand that peace. To most people, it will remain a mystery how someone can be so peaceful in the midst of so much turmoil.

I heard this poem tonight at one of our church's Christmas fellowship celebrations.

### A Visit From Jesus



If Jesus came to your house today  
Would you invite Him in, or turn Him away  
Would you offer Him something to eat  
Would you kneel down and wash His feet  
Would you stare at His nail scarred hand  
And in your mind try to understand  
All the pain He went thru  
To save a wretch like me and you  
Would you ask about the ones you love  
Who have already gone above  
Would you kneel down with Him and pray  
And wonder why He came this day  
Just you and Him all alone

Would you wonder if He came, to take you home  
By Jack Van Zant.

I pray that you will experience the peace of God that surpasses all understanding and that you will be able to share that peace with others.



So, what's up with the actual ministry of KIMA? A lot of little things or big things depending on how involved you are in this ministry.



1. Maybe a relatively minor thing but people have been asking, "How can I share what is happening in KIMA?" Well, if you go to our website at [www.kimamission.org](http://www.kimamission.org), and go to the section labeled "Gallery" you will see that we have tried to put a slide show on there with instructions how to use it. Check it out.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL



2. If you have investments with Thrivent Financial and haven't designated your Choice Dollars, we would ask that you would consider designating your Choice Dollars to KIMA to help us join together with our brothers and sisters in Christ in reaching out with the Gospel to the throngs of people in Mexico.



Omar Garza

3. We would ask for your prayers for Omar Garza Martinez as he finishes up his studies for the ministry and his ordination on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

4. Remember our students, Neftali and Guillermo, who are studying at the Reformer Lutheran Seminary in the Dominican Republic. They are in their last year of preparation and will return to Mexico to shepherd congregations, mission starts, and fellow pastors.



Guillermo & Neftali



Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera

5. Keep in your prayers Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera and the ministry at San Juan Lutheran Church in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. Pastor Samuel Perez Herrera struggles with family health issues and resulting financial problems. The congregation is seeking to repair the sanctuary that was vandalized during the years of non-use. To top it all off part of the property is to be auctioned off on December 19 unless back taxes of approximately \$5000 are paid on the property. At last report they have raised half of that amount.



6. We give thanks to God for Job Jimenez and his return to San Mateo Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico. We also pray for Lay-pastor Saul Silva and his family as he seeks the Lord's guidance as to his role in the ongoing ministry at San Mateo.



7. We give thanks to the Lord for the workers in His Kingdom in Mexico:



Rev. Isaac Guadalupe Garcia Castillo and his wife Yolanda as he serves as President of the SLM (Lutheran Synod of Mexico), and they as the leadership team of Betania (Bethany) Lutheran Church in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. [Isaac\\_gpe@hotmail.com](mailto:Isaac_gpe@hotmail.com)

Rev. Samuel Perez Gaona and his wife Concepción as he serves as Vice President of the SLM, and they as the leadership team of El Sembrador (The Sower) Lutheran Church in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. [perezgaonasamuel@gmail.com](mailto:perezgaonasamuel@gmail.com)



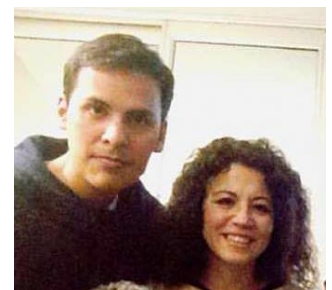
Lay-Pastor Omar Garza Martinez and his wife Leticia as he serves as Treasurer of the SLM, and they as the leadership team of La Santisima Trinidad (The Holy Trinity) Lutheran Church in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. [margar2000@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:margar2000@prodigy.net.mx)



Rev. Andrew Schlund and his wife Kelsey, LCMS Missionaries serving at El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd) Lutheran Church in Mexico City. [iglesiabuenpastormx@gmail.com.mx](mailto:iglesiabuenpastormx@gmail.com.mx)

Rev. Benjamin Quezada Guzman and his wife Mayela who serve as the leadership team at San Pedro (St. Peter) Lutheran Church in Mexico City.

[benjamin\\_quezada@hotmail.com](mailto:benjamin_quezada@hotmail.com)



Rev. Alvaro López as he serves at San Pablo (St. Paul) Lutheran Church in Mexico City. [lofaal31416@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:lofaal31416@yahoo.com.mx)

Rev. Daniel Conrad and his wife Kathy as they serve the SLM in theological education. They are based at San Pedro Lutheran Church in Mexico City. [daniel.conrad@lcmsintl.org](mailto:daniel.conrad@lcmsintl.org)



Daniel, Ana, Kathy



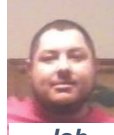
Rev. Carlos Catalán, missionary at large from the Northern Illinois District LCMS, and his wife Martha Ruth as they serve at Todos los Santos (All Saints) Lutheran Church in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. [revcatalan@aol.com](mailto:revcatalan@aol.com)



Martha & Carlos



Lay-Pastor Saul Silva, his wife Sofia, Job Jimenez, and Jesus Corona as they serve at San Mateo (St. Matthew) Lutheran Church in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico. [sofiss55@yahoo.com](mailto:sofiss55@yahoo.com)



Job

[rev\\_jimenez@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:rev_jimenez@yahoo.com.mx)

Rev. Samuel Perez Herrera and his wife Mayra as he serves as coordinator of Theological education for the SLM, and they as they serve as the leadership team for San Juan (St. John) Lutheran Church in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. [samuelp@gmail.com](mailto:samuelp@gmail.com)



Lay-Pastor José Reyes and his wife Martina as they serve at El Divinio Emanuel (The Emmanuel Divinity) Lutheran Church in Guasave, Sinaloa, Mexico, Nueva Jerusalén (New Jerusalem) Lutheran Mission in San Pedro, Sinaloa, Mexico, and the Mission at Las Moras. [josereyes00@hotmail.com](mailto:josereyes00@hotmail.com)

Lay-Pastor Josafat Basto, his wife Armandina, and their daughter Eunice who serve the three Sonoran Desert missions San Lucas (St. Luke) Lutheran Mission in Ejido El Fronterizo, Rey de Gloria (King of Glory) Lutheran Mission in Ejido Independencia, and Santo Tomas in Ejido Meza Rica. [josaymandi@gmail.com](mailto:josaymandi@gmail.com)



Lay-Pastor Luis Moreno and his wife Rosario as they serve Mision El Mesias (The Messiah Mission) in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. [luismoreno714@yahoo.com](mailto:luismoreno714@yahoo.com)

Lay-Pastor Samuel Garcia Marquez and his wife Alicia who serve at Mission Luterana Betel (Bethel Lutheran Mission) in Rio Rico, Tamaulipas, Mexico. [samuel3marquez@gmail.com](mailto:samuel3marquez@gmail.com)



I want to thank each and everyone of you who has helped the ministry of KIMA with your prayers, financial support, and any other services that you might have provided.

I thank Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Rev. Greg Finke, Sylvia Bulot, Ralph Genz, and Lois Wolf, the Board members, who with valued insight and love for their Lord are always ready with their advice to further the ministry of KIMA, and helping to set up and man information booths at pastoral conferences, housing visiting associates from Mexico, keeping track of donations, taking the minutes, or keeping the website updated.

I thank Dennis and Margie Norum, Billy and Mary Lou Crawford, Gary and Debbie Montgomery, the Stewardship Committee of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waxahachie, Allison Dayton, and any others who each year make the Octoberfest meal and auction possible and successful. Their contributions go a long way in keeping this ministry financially viable.

I also want to thank:

- Mr. John White of Houston who keeps us legal by each year helping us file all the correct official government forms.
- Mr. Keith Howanitz of Austin for his expertise on computers and his love of Christ's ministries as he shares with us the technology about the many things about which we don't have a clue.
- Erin Mackenzie of Editorial Concordia, a division of Concordia Publishing House, who goes way beyond her call of duty in helping me order religious supplies for the Hispanic Churches that we support. If I'm not sure about an order, she uses her Spanish to call the pastors and gets our order right.
- The 76 different identities, congregations, LWML's, people giving memorials, Thrivent Choice Dollars, The Meadows Foundation, who to date have given \$54,127.95.

Without the help, guidance, and prayers of all of you and a few I probably haven't mentioned, KIMA couldn't exist. You are a living testament of what the Love of God accomplishes. I love what God has called us to do and I love all of you who are making it possible. May God bless each of you, your families, and your ministries!



*Norman and Marty Finke*

Executive Director and chief supporter

1. "From heaven above to earth I come  
To bear good news to every home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:

2. "To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth,  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3. "This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.