



### Interesting Facts About Epiphany Season in Mexico

+ January 6<sup>th</sup> is 'Three Kings Day' in Mexico, known in Spanish as *el Dia de Reyes*.

+ The people get together on this day and eat Rosca de Reyes, a sweet bread shaped like a wreath, with candied fruit on top, and a figurine of a baby Jesus baked inside.

+ The person who finds the figurine is expected to host a party on Candlemas, an event that takes place on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tamales are usually served.

+ February 2<sup>nd</sup> falls 40 days after Christmas, and is celebrated as the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin or as the Presentation of the Lord.

## Happy New Year!

Greetings in the name of the Lord! We pray that all of you had a blessed Christmas and New Year celebration. Long after we put away the Christmas lights the glory of the Lord continues to shine throughout the world!

Dan is now serving as the interim pastor at Buen Pastor while the Schlunds are on their furlough to the United States. This last week at Buen Pastor the congregation celebrated its Epiphany service with a special Mexican treat called Rosca de Reyes which is a sweet round, cake or oval shaped Mexican bread, decorated with slices of crystallized or candied fruit. The King cake is also called: biscuit, cake or sweet bread to celebrate the three kings. (It is pictured below)

Dan continues teaching his exegetical course on the Gospel of John. It is quite an experience to teach seminarians from five different Latin American countries! The class takes place on Thursday mornings from 8:30 in the morning until 12 o'clock noon. The students have been working very hard and will be a great blessing to their respective national churches when they are ordained.

The ongoing challenge that we have in Mexico is that of forming national pastors. We give thanks to God for these future Mexican national pastors that are in formation and pray for future vocations.

At the present time we are celebrating the Epiphany season. At the same time the churches are getting prepared for their Ash Wednesday celebrations that will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. We pray that all of you have a blessed Ash Wednesday celebration!

During the latter part of December and the first week of January the amount of traffic diminished significantly due to the school's and companies' holiday vacation time. It is now back to the normal hectic pace!





### We Pray For

- + A blessed Epiphany season for all.
- +The future pastors and deaconesses who are in formation.
- +The LCMS missionaries who serve throughout the world.
- + More mission partners for our mission in Mexico.
- +The Schlund family as they serve the Lord during their furlough time in the states.

### We Give Thanks For

- +Our mission partners.
- + Our Epiphany worship services.
- + The prayers and financial support that make the mission in Mexico possible.

## Personal Notes

We are now back to normal emotionally again after the break-in of our apartment. We again thank God that we were away when it happened and for that reason none of us suffered any bodily harm. It will take a while to replace everything that was stolen but material things can be replaced.

Everything is fine with our health. Ana has a few more appointments with her orthodontist before she is done with her braces.

We thank God for the mission in Mexico as we build up existing congregations and provide Biblical training for national pastors, deacons, and deaconesses. Prayerfully consider how the Lord may be leading you to support this vital mission. The Lord provides the funding for his missionaries efforts through the donations of His local churches and its individual members.

Through your financial donations national pastors and deaconess will be formed and mentored that they may spread the Gospel throughout Mexico. Together we partner with God to take the Gospel to the far ends of the earth. Blessings on your Epiphany season!



*Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)*

*Soli Deo Gloria  
Daniel, Kathy, and Ana*



To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 790089  
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Daniel Conrad.”

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at [www.lcms.org/conrad](http://www.lcms.org/conrad) or call 888-930-4438 to speak with one of our Donor Care representatives.

**Thank you for your support!**