



Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done

Anniversary Offering

***Supporting Cross-Cultural Projects, Vicars in Mission, and
New ELS Missions***

***Update on Cristo Rey Lutheran, Bell Gardens, CA
Pastor Matthew Behmer, Missionary***

The church building desperately needed to be remodeled at Cristo Rey. The interior was dated. Sections of the ceiling were caving in. The carpet was stained and flooring worn through.

With a lot of work and help from members and *Builders for Christ*, the ceiling was raised and recessed lighting installed. Stone replaced thin wood paneling behind the altar. A Santa Barbara finish has been plastered over the sanctuary's cinder block walls. Commercial laminate flooring, resembling wood, was installed in the sanctuary. A new layout created a main entrance in the front of our building, increased seating capacity, and allowed for a dedicated nursery space.

While the project seemed to consume the congregation's time and energy, it soon opened new opportunities to share the good news, more than they could ever imagine!

First, the project allowed long-time members, new members, and prospective members to work alongside



one another. More importantly, it connected these individuals to God's Word as each day included morning and afternoon devotions.

Second, the project helped develop relationships with city officials, public works employees, trash removal crews, and contractors. The members remain in touch with some of them.

Third, the project communicated to our community that we are an active entity. Neighboring people invited themselves to see the progress. The necessity of having outdoor worship services opened the door to others in the neighborhood.

They now have a beautiful facility that can be used as a center for new outreach activities. For example, they had a traditional Mexican posada (over 75 participating), an adult confirmation and two baptisms filled the pews as people witnessed this joyous occasion, and more are to follow.

Your gifts to the Anniversary Offering helped fund this building project and has opened the door to many more outreach opportunities through which the gospel can be shared.



Thank you for your support.

Please continue to prayerfully and generously support our missionaries in one of these ways:

- **Send your gift to *Anniversary Offering, 6 Browns Ct, Mankato, MN 56001,***
- **Text a gift to [507-607-7085](tel:507-607-7085), (e.g. 100 AO),**
- **Visit els.org/donate.**

Thank you for helping our missionaries to reach the lost for Christ as we celebrate 100 years under God's grace.

Call or text 507-469-9656 for assistance.