

Schedule of Activities

First Week: The program begins in Cuernavaca, known as “the city of eternal spring.” This is also where the Christian Base Communities (CBCs) were born in Mexico. Students will begin learning about the history and formation of the CBCs that can serve as a model for ministry within Latino communities in the U.S. Participants will dialogue with priests and lay leaders who are active in the CBCs as well as participate in a CBC meeting.

Second Week: Students will explore how CBC's provide a faith foundation for organizing in defense of human rights, environmental protection and fair trade practices. Participants will visit local community projects and hear from leaders active in these movements.

Third Week: The program moves to Mexico City with lodging at the Lutheran Center. Participants will explore the context in which we do ministry by seeing how the Mexican reality relates to the Latino immigrant experience in the United States. Students will learn about Mexican history as well as the impact of current economic policies, both national and transnational. The group will visit with organizations working in solidarity with *campesinos*, defending immigrant rights and creating alternative economic models for a more just and humane society. Students will begin to integrate the training to anticipate how this can be incorporated into their home settings.

Classes: Daily intensive Spanish instruction, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday-Friday. Students are evaluated and placed at the appropriate level with a maximum of five students in each class.

Homestay: Homestay with a Mexican family will be provided during the first two weeks. This gives students the experience of sharing in the daily life of the Mexican people as well as ample opportunities to practice Spanish in an everyday setting. The host families will be ones who are active in the Christian Base Communities.

Cost: \$1680 USD includes full room and board, three weeks of intensive Spanish instruction, educational materials, cultural activities and local excursions. Students are responsible for their airfares and transportation to Cuernavaca.



Initial Inquiries:

ELCA Mexico
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www.elca.org/mexico

Registration and Deposit

CETLALIC
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What Former Students Have to Say

The combination of language, cultural and theological studies in Mexico was such a powerful influence on my life that my whole family returned for four summers, using vacation and education time in a combination of study and exploration of Mexico and Central America.

We were looking for language study that would help us speak and hear Spanish and that's what we found at CETLALIC. But more than the language, I found that many of the methodologies of the Base Community Movement could be incorporated in our Bible Studies, and the pedagogy of Paulo Freire utilized by CETLALIC has become a model for my teaching and preaching.

- Pastor Brian Eklund, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, California

Learning Spanish in Mexico, living with a family and studying in a small, progressive school provided much more than the acquisition of basic phrases and grammar. We emerged with a rich experience of history, culture and an amazing group of new friends and extended family. This has been the most valuable continuing education experience in our ministry.

- Pastor Bob & Barbra Humphrey, Grace Lutheran Church, Waynesboro, Virginia

About Us

Why “Spanish for Ministry”?

The Latino immigrant population is one of the fastest growing minority groups within the United States. Latinos are not only increasing in numbers but also becoming more widespread in the areas of the country where they choose to live and work. The role of immigrants and their rights within society is a critical issue. The gospel of Jesus calls the church to provide pastoral and prophetic accompaniment within this context. The advancement of this goal requires the formation of leaders who are prepared to respond to this call. Acquiring language skills within the Latino cultural context is crucial for this leadership formation.



The **ELCA Mexico Program** has a 20-year history of facilitating immersion experiences. The programs are designed as an encounter with the crucified and risen Christ who is present among those who are condemned to death by economic and political powers. These same people are rising to new life through their capacity to organize themselves, drawing upon the wealth of their spirituality and long history of resistance. Immersion program participants are challenged to experience the world from the perspective of the marginalized. Critical reflection on that reality is encouraged, and participants return home inspired to become more active agents in promoting God’s reign through solidarity with the poor.

CETLALIC was founded in 1987 as an alternative school, integrating intensive study of Spanish language with experiential cultural learning and analysis of current issues. CETLALIC was born in the community of Mexican and U.S. activists working in solidarity with the people of El Salvador and to address the language barriers within this movement. CETLALIC is inspired by the work of Brazilian educator Paulo Freire whose adult literacy program focused on the cultural realities of his students. CETLALIC is accredited by the Ministry of Public Education in the State of Morelos, Mexico. Course credit can be arranged directly with interested students and institutions for language instruction and/or service learning courses.

We maintain a community of people from different nationalities, ethnic origins, sexual orientations, religions, ages and races. We value this diversity and the commitment to dialogue. -CETLALIC

Spanish Language for Ministry



Mexico City and Cuernavaca, Mexico

August 9-30, 2008