



VOICE OF GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church, Atlanta

February/March 2018

Mission Trip Opportunity

By: Jeff Raymond



This coming June 9-16, I will be leading a mission trip to a rural region in Guatemala to a city named Chichicastenango (Chichi, for short). The organization we will serve with is called Manos de Jesus (in the States, it's called Pray America), who has been serving the region that is very rich in Mayan culture and traditions since 2003. Manos uses James 1:27 as their foundation; "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

The region of Guatemala we will serve is severely poverty stricken, and the Civil War (from 1960-1996) left the region with very few men. The need to uplift the

widows and orphans is quite high, as there continues to be very few men in the communities. Manos has a full-time staff of approximately 75 local Guatemalan men and women, as well as several long-term missionaries whose focus is to share the Gospel of Jesus through both words and works.

While there, we will work with those men and women, and our mission will be to build and/or refurbish 2-4 houses for widows, install fuel-efficient stoves and water filters, serve meals to hungry kids at feeding programs (these include a Bible lesson for various age groups), provide nice shoes to kids (so they can go to school), and provide other basic needs to widows.

The campus where we will stay is called Monte Flor and is a beautiful/safe environment for teams on short-term missions. Men, women, and children are all welcome to serve (I've served with grandparents as well as younger children). People of all ages can contribute to whatever level they are comfortable with.

Since we will be serving in rural areas, we will have the opportunity to "unplug" from our electronics and day-to-day lives that often clutters up our ability to focus on serving Jesus. Each trip I have taken has been spiritually filling and has helped me truly understand our purpose while we are here on earth. I invite you to take this journey with me.

For more information, please contact Jeff Raymond:

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Visit the Pray America website for more information on this great organization: www.prayamerica.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Congregational Focus Study, February 11

After the service, we will be meeting to finalize some of the planning we have begun with our Focus Study. All are asked to attend, but those who stepped forward to serve as leaders in the various endeavors will be the particular focus of our time this day. Please bring some lunch for our time together.

Chili Cook Off, February 17, 5pm

Think you have the best chili recipe in town? Prove it! Join us at the church for our annual chili cook off.

First Sunday Oatmeal Breakfast, March 3, 9:45am

Second Sunday Lunch, March 11

Join us after the service for fellowship and lunch at Varuni Napoli (1540 Monroe Dr NE).

Easter Breakfast, April 1, 9:30am

Easter Egg Hunt, April 1, 10:15am

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Service: February 14, 7pm

Wednesday Evening Lenten Suppers (6pm) and Services (7pm):

- » **February 21**
- » **February 28**
- » **March 7**
- » **March 14**
- » **March 21**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- » **Maundy Thursday Service: March 29, 7pm**
- » **Good Friday Service: March 30, 7pm**
- » **Easter Sunday Service: April 1, 11am**

IN OUR PRAYERS

- » **Our homebound member:** Marjorie Hunecke
- » **Continued healing:** Karleen Smith, Arlene Kateen, and Jan Ellison
- » **Expectant mothers:** Beth Ellsworth, Stephanie Plowman, Danielle Durgin, Laura Gollin
- » **For our mission partners:** Rev. Joseph Song, Stepping Stone, and Lutheran Services of Georgia

WEEKLY WORSHIP

- » **Children's Sunday School, Sundays 9:45am**
- » **Adult Bible Study, Sundays 9:45am**
- » **Young Adult Class, Sundays 9:45am**
- » **Worship Service, Sundays 11am**

WEEK AT GRACE

- » **Mondays: Nicotine Anonymous, 7pm**
- » **Tuesdays: Yoga Exercise Class, 6pm**
- » **Wednesdays: Supper and Bible Study, 6pm**
- » **Thursdays: Alcoholics Anonymous, 7pm**
- » **Saturdays: Yoga Exercise Class, 10am**

NEW VICAR

During the service on February 4, we are installing our new Vicar, Isaac Baroi. We are partnering with Living Faith Lutheran in Cumming for Isaac's vicarage. He will rotate services on a month-to-month basis and will be preaching once a month as well. After his vicarage, his focus will be the Word and Sacrament ministry in Clarkston, with the goal of a church plant.

Please give Isaac and his family a warm welcome!

CONTACT US

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