



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org



Spiritual Growth!

There is much excitement amongst our congregations as we expand our staff and our ministry. We will have a regional staff strategy meeting on September 30th, including lay ministers and key volunteers from our multi-cultural congregations, to pray and strategize about our ministry efforts. Here are some new efforts already underway:

*Diego Grisales, Lay Minister, is teaching two home Bible studies in Bonita Springs with about 4-5 participants each.

*Bill Miller, Lay Minister, is teaching a home Bible study in Fort Myers with another starting soon in Cape Coral.

*The new TEE (Theological Training by Extension) class has begun: People and Events of the Old Testament. There are 9 participants from our congregations in Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, and Naples. Rev. Benito Perez-Lopez taught the first class.

*On September 10th we welcomed Jianna Victoria Vidal, the granddaughter of Nancy Gonzales, into God's family through the waters of Baptism. Next month we will baptize Andy Castillo, the youngest child of Nazaria Castillo.

*Members from our congregations in Bonita Springs and Fort Myers came out to the Amigos Center to repaint inside. They did a great job! Also, an immigration client who is a contractor is donating his time to create a partition in the center to allow more privacy to the clients; he wants to help us out of gratitude for what we've done for him through our immigration ministry.

Fundraising Efforts

We are always in need of financial support to aid our growth in Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Naples, and especially now with our expansion into Immokalee. We are thankful for all the support we have and continue to receive. We want to mention a few fundraising efforts:

*The United Way, Lee County, is doing their fundraising campaign to raise \$6.6 million this year! We've been given \$25,000 for this year and we are very grateful to be a United Way partner agency. Not only does it aid us financially, but it gives us another way to

present our work to the community and to network and partner with other agencies.

*We are thankful for the Gannett Foundation; they approved our full grant of \$7500 for our welcoming ministries.

*We welcome Dennis Esch, the new Planned Giving Counselor of the FL-GA district and LCMS Foundation, as a part of our Gift Planning Committee. Working with Dennis, we will provide information to our circuit congregations about leaving a legacy, estate plans, and more! We look forward to Partnering with Dennis and the LCMS foundation to help not only Amigos en Cristo, but also to help our supporting congregations and to equip their members with more ways to bless others through giving.

YOU'RE INVITED

Come join us on Saturday, October 14th from 10am-4pm at the Immokalee Community Park, 321 North First Street, for our Festival of the Americas! We will have live music, Haitian and Hispanic food booths, entertainment for kids, health screenings, and more. Come have fun and support our efforts to unite the cultures and people of Immokalee and Collier County. We thank the mission committee of Zion Lutheran, Fort Myers for gathering Bibles and materials for children in Creole, Spanish, and English.

Staff Retreat

Our staff retreat in October will help our staff, which has doubled since last year, get to know one another better and be refreshed and renewed. Our guest speaker, Rick Armstrong, will talk on how to maintain a balance between work, home life, and our relationship with God.

Give thanks to God for . . .

- All the wonderful work He is doing in, through, and for us.

Pray for . . .

- Our language program and the ongoing need for tutors and teachers.
- A successful festival in Immokalee.