# **Reaching out to the Hypheners**

English Language Ministry in Immokalee By Pastor Bob Selle

Second generation immigrants live within two cultures, that of their parents and that of the country they call home. They are the "Hypheners": Mexican-Americans, Haitian-Americans, Guatemalan-Americans, etc.

While many adults in Immokalee immigrated to the United States from Mexico, Guatemala and Haiti, there are also many who either came as very young children or were born here in the United States to their immigrant parents. Of the 53,000,000 Hispanics in the United States almost 65% were born and raised here in the United States ("A Future for the Latino Church" by Daniel Rodriguez). They often do not feel comfortable in the Spanish/Haitian language church of their parents. They are too "Americanized," too "adapted" to the American culture. At the same time they often do not feel welcome in the existing American churches where they are seen as foreigners. They don't feel they belong. They may have experienced discrimination (or they feel that they have experienced discrimination).



While continuing our outreach to first generation Hispanics and Haitians, we are now expanding our ministry to establish a multicultural, multi-racial English-dominant Lutheran church focused on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation immigrants in Immokalee. Our church will promote a global, multicultural vision where our identity is first and foremost as members of the Kingdom of God.

Vicar Karl Glander has already started a Wednesday evening group that meets for Bible study, prayer, worship, food and fellowship in English at our Immokalee Amigos Center. We expect to start an English language Sunday worship service later this summer. To read more, visit our website: <a href="https://www.amigoscenter.org">www.amigoscenter.org</a>



#### **English Program**

By Karl Glander (Amigos Center Service Director)

This last quarter has been an eventful one. Our English classes are in full swing Monday through Thursday from 9:30am-11:30am. We also will soon start training our volunteer staff with new computer literacy classes. It will help students develop basic computer skills such as how to set up an e-mail address, fill out an online job application, log on to the parent portal at their children's school, etc.







# Summer 2014 Newsletter

#### **Innovative Mission Effort**

By Pastor Bob Selle

An innovative intergenerational approach to Family ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Myers produced among other mission projects, enough food to serve 80 families in Immokalee. This intergenerational approach provides opportunity for families to come together for worship, fellowship and mission service. During a recent weekend event entire families gathered and assembled food bags for Amigos en Cristo, flood buckets and also sorted nails for Habitat for Humanity. Family Life Ministry DCE Rebecca Duport innovated the concept and organized the weekend event to replace the traditional children's Vacation Bible School model. According to

Zion's Pastor Peter Weeks, "This intergenerational approach is a unique tool that embodies the partnership between the church and the home to reach out to the community." Thrivent Financial for Lutherans partnered with Zion Lutheran to match funds through their "Care Abounds in Communities" matching grant program.



Immokalee Amigos Center volunteers gather to say "Thank you" to the families of Zion Lutheran Church for their gift of love.

### We want to partner with you

If you would like to make a meaningful contribution of your time and talent let us know. We have volunteer opportunities for both individuals and groups: food and clothing distribution, tutoring English, children and youth ministry, etc. What ideas do you have?



If you would like to learn more about our Amigos en Cristo ministry, visit our website <a href="www.amigoscenter.org">www.amigoscenter.org</a>, or Facebook <a href="www.facebook.com/AmigosCenter">www.facebook.com/AmigosCenter</a>. Better yet, visit us in person. We host tours of our Immokalee Amigos Center at your convenience. Call Pastor Selle for more information (239) 281-1664.