

Mexico Mission Trip 2020

La Casa de Cristo Information Packet

Join La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church for a mission trip to central Mexico with Mazahua Valley Ministries! We will continue to build our strong partnership with the local *Share Life Church*. We will work, play, and worship together alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ in Atacomulco, Mexico! Thanks be to God for this great opportunity to be the family of God together!



OUR MISSION

This trip is all about relationships. The first most important relationship is our relationship with God. This trip will help us all grow in our life of faith with our Savior. We will pray, worship, and praise God in all that we do. The second most important relationship is the one that we will build with each other and with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Mazahua Valley of Mexico. We will be celebrating that we are truly one family of God. Our mission is to strengthen the bond between all of our churches and thus strengthen the bond of the entire Christian Church on earth.

As a part of all this we also have some specific projects planned. We will be leading a Sports Camp and Vacation Bible School experience for children at the mission center. All this is to continue to build relationships for and with *Share Life Church*, the local church plant. There will be opportunities for ministry for everyone!

DATES

The trip is July 2-9, 2020. Participants must also commit to team meetings leading up to the trip (see below).

COST

This is an all-inclusive *church-group* mission. The price of \$1,300 includes round trip air transportation from Phoenix to Mexico City, all ground transportation in Mexico, lodging in Mexico City and Atacomulco, all meals at the mission center, safe purified drinking water, and mission support for the local church ministries in the Mazahua Valley. This is a family mission trip for people of all ages (kids must have an accompanying parent). Final payment is due May 10, 2020.

TEAM MEETINGS

Preparation Meetings are an important part of the mission. We will be preparing ourselves as a team and planning our mission projects together. Place these dates on your calendar now:

Sunday, March 8, 11:30 am	Introductions
Sunday, May 10, 11:30 am	Planning and Preparing our Mission Projects
Sunday, June 7, 11:30 am	Finalizing our Mission Projects

GROUP COMMISSIONING AND WORSHIP LEADING

The mission team will be commissioned for their work in a worship service preceding the trip and they will have the opportunity to lead worship and share their experiences when they return from their trip. Please these dates on your calendar now:

Sunday, June 28 Group Commissioning at a morning Worship Service
Sunday, July 12 Mission Team leads worship at La Casa (and Saturday, July 11)

MEALS

All meals at the mission center are included. If you have special dietary needs please share them Pastor Matt at registration. All food will be safely prepared and safe for consumption.

Meals in airports, in transit to Mexico, are not included. However, there are several restaurants and opportunities for snacks as we travel.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What ages can go on this trip?

Any age is welcome. Families are encouraged to join in mission together; this trip is purposely designed as a great opportunity for families. Kids need to have at least one parent join them.

What is Mazahua Valley Ministries?

Mazahua Valley Ministries is a Christian evangelical mission that equips leaders to serve their communities and churches in a holistic way through theological and secular educational programs. MVM serves as a resource to the churches of the Mazahua Valley region of central Mexico. They have on-campus events such as conferences, worship services, and retreats, as well as off-campus activities working in partnership with the local pastors and churches to minister to the needs of the surrounding community. Both Pastor Jeff Ruby and Pastor Matt Knopf have worked with Mazahua Valley Ministries in the past and they have a strong relationship with them.

Where is this trip to?

This trip will take us through Mexico City and then up into the mountains of the State of Mexico. The Mazahua Valley Ministries campus is located in the Mazahua Valley outside of Atlacomulco in the State of Mexico which is approximately eighty miles northwest of Mexico City in the central highlands of Mexico around 9,600 ft. The climate is fresh during the spring and summer with heavy rains; and cold with some frost during the fall and winter.



The MVM ministry covers a radius of forty miles including five counties: Atlacomulco, Ixtlahuaca, San Felipe del Progreso, El Oro y Temascalcingo; reaching out to about twenty four villages and thirty-five churches from different denominations. We will be doing most of our work in the area around and just south of Atlacomulco, which is just about right in the middle of the entire country of Mexico.

The red marker on the map to the left locates Atlacomulco, Mexico, just outside of Mexico City.

Who are the Mazahua People?

The Mazahua people are one of sixty-two indigenous groups found in Mexico. Although Mazahua is their native language, they are quickly being assimilated into the national culture. Today, many of the young people only speak Spanish. The Mazahuas are generally farmers subsisting on small plots of land. Their main crop is corn used for making tortillas, the main staple in their diet.

Lack of employment has forced many to migrate to the cities, northern border areas, or the United States to find work as vendors, masons, or domestic employees. Most children have access to primary & secondary school, but very few go on to finish high school. Half of the population lives in extreme poverty on less than \$5 a day. The Mazahua people are known for their gift of hospitality and service, close family ties, and community, therefore; visitation is a very important aspect of our ministry.

Should I go on this trip?

Yes. Yes you should.