

Mexico Mission Trip 2019
La Casa de Cristo Information Packet



July 26 - August 2, 2019

MEXICO MISSION TRIP

La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church with Mazahua Valley Ministries



Join La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church for a mission trip to central Mexico with Mazahua Valley Ministries! The theme of this year's trip is, *Build the Church*, as we explore the opportunity from God to help plant a Lutheran Church in Atacomulco, Mexico. Don't miss this great opportunity to participate in the Kingdom of God!

This mission of this trip is focused on laying the foundation for a new Lutheran church plant in Atacomulco, Mexico through Mazahua Valley Ministries. Our work will be about community building in anticipation of the new church. Relationships will be developed with the community through a summer sports clinic which we will lead and by visiting and learning about the work of Mazahua Valley Ministries in the area. La Casa de Cristo is blessed by this opportunity.

DATES

The trip is July 26 - August 2, 2019. Participants must also commit to team planning meetings leading up to the trip (see below).

COST

This is an all-inclusive church-group mission. The price of \$1,425 (by deadline) includes round trip air transportation from Phoenix to Mexico City, all ground transportation in Mexico, lodging in Mexico City and Atacomulco, all meals in Mexico (exception: meals at the airport), 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). Post-deadline price is \$1500 + airfare difference, dependent on airline availability.

ITINERARY

Friday, July 26	Arrive into MxEX, bus from MEX to mission center in Atacomuco.
Sat - Wed	Lead sports camp and visit MVM ministries.
Thursday, August 1	Bus to Ixtapan de la Sal for waterpark adventure.
Friday, August 2	Bus to MEX for return flight home to PHX

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, April 8 Team Meeting 1 - Introductions
Sunday, June 2 Team Meeting 2 - Planning for Sports Camp
Sunday, July 14 Team Meeting 3 - Finalizing Sports Camp planning

Meeting times will be based on who is in the group and what worship services they attend.

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, July 21 Group Commissioning at a morning Worship Service
Sunday, August 4 Mission Team leads worship at La Casa (and Saturday, August 3)

MEALS

All meals while we are in Mexico are included (only exception are lunches in the airport upon arrival and departure through Mexico City). All food at the mission center will be safely prepared and safe for consumption. If you have special dietary needs please share them Pastor Matt at registration.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If you have any further questions, beyond the ones shared below, please contact Pastor Matt Knopf.

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 will participants do on the trip?

Everyone's gifts will be put to work. Our focus is laying the foundation for a new Lutheran church plant in Atlacomulco, Mexico through Mazhua Valley Ministries. We will do this by learning about the existing work M.V.M. and by leading a community-relationship-building summer sports camp. Will it be tons of fun? Yes.

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.