

Constreyundo Comunidad

A MISSION OF THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)



Our Mission

Our mission is to accompany Latino families, providing support and community activities to strengthen understanding that the work of Christ is love for ALL.

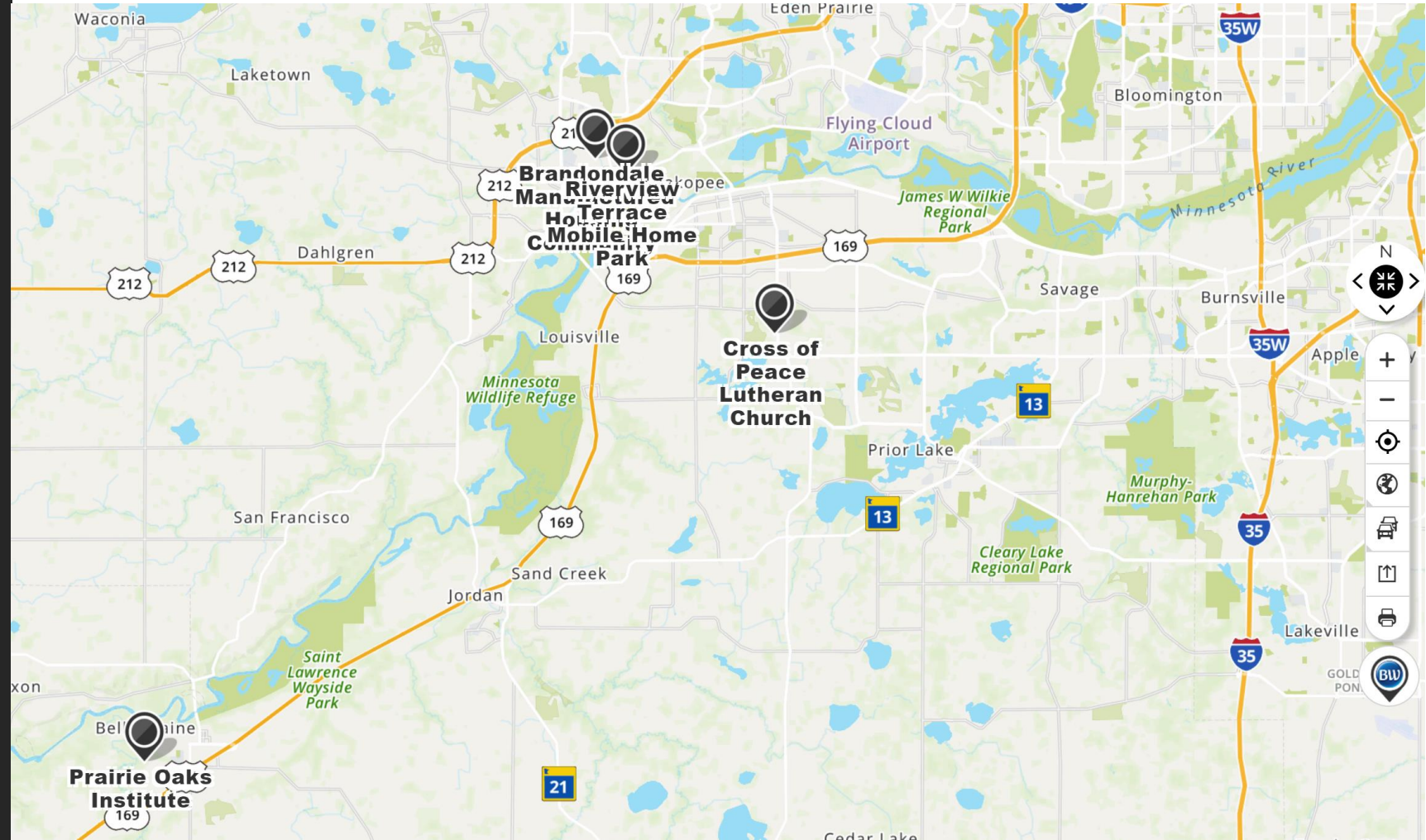
We also are:

- building relationships with neighbors across cultures
- supporting Lutheran English-speaking churches serving their Spanish-speaking neighbors





Cristo Obrero means "Christ the Worker." The work of Christ is the cross. Christ was also a healer (medical images) and a carpenter (building images). Also, common working people can see their trades within the cross. The bright colors represent traditional Central American crosses.





Is Community Possible?

1. Stephanie's Experience
2. Jorge's Experience





Building Community

Sharing Meals
with others
across cultures





Road to Emmaus

1. Luke 24:13-35
2. accompanimiento
3. walking together
4. breaking bread together





How Not to Build a Community

Trying to get people to join your church, especially when to improve attendance & giving





How to **Really** Build Community

1. Relationship

2. Relationship

3. Relationship

Be Authentic to Who You Are



Building Relationships with your Neighbors



Building Relationships with Leaders

1. Police
2. School District
3. Non-Profits



**Listen.
No Agenda.**



Building Relationships with the Community

1. Mobile Home Parks

2. Local Schools



**Listen.
No Agenda.**



Soccer

As we listened to the community, we heard there was a need for safe activities for children. We started to build relationships in the community by offering a free soccer program. Our first year, we had over 50 children and youth registered. We also offered a smaller basketball program. For the last two summers, we began another soccer program in a second mobile home park.





Homework Help

We also heard that many children were struggling with school because of language barriers and working parents not able to help with homework. The teachers were overwhelmed with so many children below grade level.

Four days a week, we help support the Chaska School District's after school program at the Riverview Terrace Mobile Home Park. We have volunteers from partner congregations that help the children with homework. We also plan activities for special celebrations.





Day Camps

During summers, we were able to provide day camps for the children on weeks the school district did not provide programming to help provide a safe space while parents are working.





During COVID

We listened to people's needs during Covid. We were able to provide over \$5,000 in food support to families in need with the help of our partner congregations. We also had a Virtual Vacation Bible School. And distributed soccer balls to keep children active.





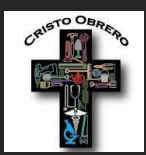
Building Relationships with the People

1. Pastoral Presence

2. Activities



**Listen.
No Agenda.**



Religious Celebrations

As we built relationships in the communities, people began to ask about the Lutheran church. We slowly introduced faith elements. We first held celebrations for Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), the Posadas (a Christmas event), and Ashes to Go (for Ash Wednesday). We are now worshipping 1-2 times per month.





Worship Every Sunday?

Not quite there yet. The people we accompany have often been hurt by the church and are dechurched. We are working on building trusted relationship with them.

Sometimes the sacraments are cookies & juice at the After School Program. The liturgy is helping a child to read. And the confession is listening to our neighbor's pain. That is church, too!





Now People Are Wanting to Build Relationships with Us

- 1. County Health Department
- 2. Brandondale



- 3. DFL Women
- 4. People not affiliated with a faith group

5. Prairie Oaks Institute





Relationship with Prairie Oaks Institute







Accompany























VBS ON THE FARM

July 31 - August 3

Sign up!
vbsonthefarm.org

The logo for 'VBS On the Farm' is located in the top right corner. It features a stylized red barn with a white roof and a white door, and a red silo to its left. The text 'VBS ON THE FARM' is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font above the barn. Below the barn, the dates 'July 31 - August 3' are written in a black, sans-serif font. Underneath the dates, the text 'Sign up!' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the website address 'vbsonthefarm.org' in a black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is framed by a yellow, diamond-shaped border.



Building Community

1. Who are you walking with?
2. Who are you breaking bread with?



GRACIAS



Questions?

Contact Pastor Jorge Espinoza

jorge.l.espinoza.perez@gmail.com

(630) 723-7004



Find us on:
facebook®