



Christ the Savior Is Born!

¡Ha Nacido Cristo el Salvador!

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
"EL COMEDOR POPULAR" SOUP KITCHEN"

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CHRISTMAS 2005

THE HOMELESS CHILD JESUS, GOD'S MIRACLE OF LOVE

"She wrapped him (Jesus) in clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." St. Luke 2:7.

Dear Friends in Christ:

The love and the peace of our Lord Jesus fill your hearts and His Spirit of joy be with you this Christmas as we celebrate His birth with songs of praise! I thank God for His blessings and I thank you for your prayers and support to our mission to the homeless in Chicago's largest Hispanic community.

In a world where homelessness is equated with poverty is hard to believe our Lord Jesus the Son of God and Savior of our souls could have been born homeless. But this was a fact when Mary and Joseph could not find a place in the inn for Mary to give birth to God's Son. This Christmas as we welcome again in our hearts the homeless Jesus, we at St. Matthew's Comedor Popular soup kitchen will welcome the homeless, unemployed and low income families to share God's blessings with hot meals and Christmas carols played over the speaker system.

THE COLD SHIVERING HOMELESS TO RECEIVE THE WARMTH OF GOD'S LOVE. As in the years past, this winter we will see the shivering faces of the homeless holding with their cold hands the collars of their old coats, we will see their dimmed eyes and hungry looks as they enter into St. Matthew Community Center. On Thursday, December 22 at noon, I and our volunteers will have the privilege to share God's blessings with a special hot turkey dinner and Christmas gifts for men and women to fulfill Christ's message of love for our neighbors. And as we read: *"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring your news of great joy that will be for*

all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. " St. Luke 2:11. We will see in the eyes of the hungry a spark of joy, their hearts will be warmed and a new hope will be born in their lonely lives with God's miracle of love with the birth of Jesus.

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS AS WE FACE HARASSMENT. Chicago's Peoples Gas has announced a 50 per cent increase in its gas price. Since last November, twice, Peoples Gas posted on St. Matthew's doors notices in red paper threatening to shut down gas to our building allegedly for lack of payment. With the help of our church trustee Larry McCallum the office of the Peoples gas was contacted and found out we had paid their bills, but their bureaucracy works slowly and sometimes we fear they might shut down the gas at a time when we consider crucial to cook hot meals for the hungry. The compassion of our Lord Jesus continues to be with us as we endeavor to fulfill His mission of love in Chicago's cold winter.

ST. MATTHEW'S FAITH MISSION BEYOND CHRISTMAS. Our passion and main goal at St. Matthew is to share with Hispanics, African Americans, European Americans and other ethnic groups the Gospel of Jesus to convey the good news that by faith in Jesus love and atonement for our sins we can attain forgiveness and salvation for our souls. At the same time we will continue with our efforts to make God's love more tangible amongst the poor by feeding the homeless and immigrant families. This Christmas we will share in Chicago's Pilsen community the greatest gift of all: a Savior, Christ the Lord. Beyond Christmas St. Matthew will remain a servant church amongst the hungry with your partnership, your prayers and support will continue to enable "the poor serve the poor".

I and St. Matthew's family wish you a Christmas filled with God's blessings and a new year under the shelter of our Lord Jesus.

Marry Christmas, Feliz Navidad!


Pastor Julio Antonio Loza

MISSION OF HOPE AND SURVIVAL

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

EL COMEDOR POPULAR SOUP KITCHEN

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PHOTO NEWS

A PASSION FOR MISSIONS AT ST. MATTHEW



In the cold of winter, "we see their dimmed eyes
And hungry looks" at St. Matthew's soup kitchen.



"The eyes of innocence"
St. Matthew feeds children at
Chicago's Pilsen.



The best gift: Pastor Loza gives Bibles at
La Barca's soup kitchen in Mexico.



Concordia University Deaconess student
Volunteered to give bread to the homeless.