



Your  
Mission Co-Worker:  
Rev. Katherine Pater



**As Any Had Need**

*All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.*  
[Acts 2:44-46a]

Last week, a newly-organized committee of 30 families in the community of Las Delicias invited us to a meeting. Opening the doors of their beautiful community church, they served us juice and sweet bread: the hallmarks of Salvadoran hospitality. After a short prayer, their leaders informed us that they



convened this meeting in order to thank us for the small bag of fertilizer we gave them in 2015, purchased with proceeds from the Don Justo Coffee project. They lamented that much of it went to waste—most of the corn crop was destroyed by a severe drought brought on by a climate change-strengthened El Niño—but were incredibly grateful to us nevertheless. So grateful, in fact, that they had decided to donate a small portion of their already-small 2015 corn harvest to the Pastoral House, in the hopes that we could either sell it and use the proceeds to assist us with other projects or donate it directly as food aid to people who have none.

As Blanca always says, “There’s always enough for everyone when we share,” and the whole Pastoral Team of Berlín believes that. The first Christian communities believed it, too. These Salvadoran subsistence farmers in Las Delicias, most of whom lost 90-95% of their crop last year, also believe that.

We who have so much have so much to learn from people who have nothing. There will be enough for all when we all learn to share.

**How can you help support the  
Our Sister Parish mission?**



Would you like to become a sustaining member – helping to support the mission every month? Contact Betty Dyer at the Presbytery Office and she can get you the information. Currently, we have 19 monthly gifts that help support the mission. You can join that list to help your mission!

Be sure to read Katherine’s blog: <https://womanbetweenworlds.wordpress.com/>

**EQUIPO PASTORAL**  
La Casa Pastoral  
Berlín, Usulután, El Salvador



Your  
Pastoral Team Members:



Margarita  
Idalia  
Jesús  
Balmore  
Blanca  
Cecilia

**Truck Fund Update**

This past December, we were finally able to purchase the new Pastoral House truck, and this January, we were able to use it to transport members of a delegation (and some friends from their partner communities) for the first time! Many thanks to all who donated to our fundraising efforts. This truck will be useful not only for transporting delegations, but also for making deliveries to communities!



**Planting Change with Rooted in Hope**

After much of last year’s corn crop was lost to the drought, the Pastoral Team and mission co-worker sought to partner with Rooted in Hope, an NGO that installs small-scale, low-maintenance, low-cost drip irrigation systems all over the developing world, helping subsistence agriculturalists adapt to climate change and grow food during the dry season. Katie and Zach, two representatives from Rooted in Hope, visited the communities of Los Yánez and Casa de Zacate in November. Stay tuned to future newsletters to learn more about what these communities have planted—and hopefully harvested!

**“El ayuno que agrada al Señor”**

We all know from Isaiah 58 that “a fast that pleases the Lord” must loose the bonds of injustice, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke. But how do we practice this true fasting in our own lives? And what do our Salvadoran brothers and sisters who struggle every day against the death-dealing forces of systematic poverty, oppression, and injustice have to teach us about fasting, about Lent, and about God?

*Our Sister Parish*, with the help of the Pastoral Team and other religious leaders in Berlín, has composed a small booklet of Lenten reflections. It is available in the Presbytery Office for \$5.00, and all proceeds will help the communities of Berlín with fertilizer and food aid during the coming year. Based on the Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Year C, we hope that it will be a blessing and a resource both for preachers and to anyone looking to deepen their faith this Lenten season.



**COMPAÑEROS**  
Presbytery of Des Moines  
Urbandale, Iowa, U.S.A.