



Greetings to you from Atonement Lutheran Church in Green Bay, the site of a new and quickly growing multicultural ministry,
Esperanza para todos - Hope for all.

We began our journey with Esperanza - Hope in the Fall of 2009. At that time, we looked out our doors at Atonement and saw a growing need in our community. There was a nagging at our hearts to reach out. So, we did just that in the form of a neighborhood block party and picnic. We saw it as a chance to get to know our neighbors, little did we know the blessings that first event would bring us.



In the months following our first event we planned, prepared, and brainstormed on how we could best serve our community inside and outside of Atonement. We saw our church walls as permeable and our doors and hearts as open to the work that God was calling us to do in the community.

As I step back to write this story for you, it amazes me how much we have grown in the past year and a half. Currently, we offer Spanish classes to the community in a project we call "Spanish for All". We also have started an English Language Learning class (formerly ESL) to help our Hispanic neighbors with their English language skills. Before we started offering our ELL classes, some had to drive to take classes to improve their English. Now, they simply have to walk, we are that close! We also are the sight for AA meetings, also offered in the Spanish language. Our church community has had the opportunity to go through a series called "One Body, Many Members", a diversity initiative promoted by the ELCA to help congregations reach out to the diverse population that surrounds them. This is an ongoing program for Atonement, lead by the Esperanza - Hope ministry staff, and it has been a great tool to help our congregation explore what it means to be a growing body in the 21st century. In addition to all I mentioned above, we also hold an annual Health and Bicycle Safety Fair for our local children, we host Latino and Ballroom dances, have put together a small food bank called "Meal in a Bag", and this year will have our 3rd annual Block Party and Corn Roast.



All of this has helped us make connections with our neighbors and has allow us to start our first bilingual church service, which will be happening in March. We are adding a church service to our current offering on Sundays and opening up our doors to those who may want to worship in Spanish. This is an exciting time for us and God has continued to bless our ministry. We ask for your prayers as we go down this new and exciting road.

In the future we hope to continue offering a bilingual service, have an all Spanish First Communion class, open our gather hall to Hispanic family celebrations, and continue to offer diversity classes to Atonement's community. God continues to amaze us and bless this ministry.



We have a wish list to help us continually grow:
Spanish Hymnals

A guitar and congas to help our Bilingual Music Ministry

Financial donations to help us purchase posters, signs, and bilingual/Spanish language materials for our Spanish speaking members.