

## Astonished



Astonished – that was how I felt as Pastor Margarita picked up the machete and started swinging. Chop, chop, chop as she split wood for the fire. There she was right beside the women at Spirit of Peace in Tepeagua, El Salvador, pitching in to make the bread for the day.

Tepeagua is a small rural community near the coast in El Salvador. Before the civil war, the land was owned and farmed by a cooperative group of campesinos or farmers. They worked together raising crops and animals, sharing the land and the harvest. After the war, this small community was created – simple homes on small lots, but still with a connection to the surrounding land.

Tepeagua is a community made up of mostly single mothers and children. Pastor Margarita encouraged and empowered the women to start a community bakery which now operates two days a week. The pastor also recently helped the women to start a second business producing soy milk.  
Pastor

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Margarita is highly respected and leads the community to have faith in our Lord and to serve him. I am amazed to see all Pastor Margarita does without seeking anything in return. As a pastor, she receives minimal compensation, and yet never seems to question her calling.



*Pastor Margarita and her husband, Pastor Eliseo*

Pastor Margarita is first and foremost a pastor, yet in her community she is also mother, teacher, business manager, homework helper, encourager and health monitor. She is a great blessing to the people of Tepeagua and I am honored to know her.

*Submitted by Renee from Atonement ELCA, Muskego WI. Atonement and Spirit of Peace are sister churches.*

Your gift to the Salvadoran Lutheran Church Pastors Endowment Fund will help to provide a sustainable source of salary support to Pastor Margarita and the other clergy of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. For more information about the fund or companion synod ministries with the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, email [info@partnerswithelsalvador.org](mailto:info@partnerswithelsalvador.org)