

## Historical Overview and Where We Fit In

- 1821 -- Independence from Spain
- 1879-1882 -- Consolidation of land ownership in the country into an oligarchy of 14 families
- 1932 -- Massacre by Salvadoran military of 20-30,000 peasants in a peasant uprising. This ushers in 50 years of military rule.
- 1952 -- Robert Gussick, a Missouri synod Lutheran missionary from Milwaukee finds the first Lutheran congregation in El Salvador
- 1962 -- Rev. Ciro Mejia becomes first Salvadoran Lutheran pastor
- 1979 -- Catholic priest Rutilio Grande is murdered. He had been active working with the poor in the country.
- 1980 -- Salvadoran civil war begins.
- March 24, 1980 -- Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero is assassinated while saying mass.
- December 2, 1980 -- Four U.S. churchwomen raped and murdered by Salvadoran National Guard.
- January 1982 -- More than 1000 peasants massacred by US trained and advised troops of the Salvadoran military at El Mozote. US denies reports of the massacre.
- Spring 1982 -- Opening of Fe y Esperanza refugee camp by Lutheran church.
- April 1983 -- Detention and torture of Lutheran pastor Medardo Gomez.
- August 6, 1986 -- Consecration of Medardo Gómez as first Salvadoran Lutheran bishop at Fe y Esperanza refugee camp.
- 1988 -- Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly passes resolution, creating the Companion Synod relationship between the GMS and the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. Resurrection Lutheran Church in San Salvador & Cross Lutheran in Milwaukee become sister churches.
- November 11, 1989 -- Bishop Gómez is forced into exile in Milwaukee because of threats against his life and other supposed sympathizers with the FMLN.
- November 16, 1989 -- Murders of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter at the University of Central America.
- 1989 & 1990 -- Bishop Peter Rogness visits El Salvador twice
- 1991 -- Greater Milwaukee Synod and Comunidad Rutilio Grande begin relationship through the SHARE Foundation.
- January 1992 -- Peace Accords are signed ending the Salvadoran civil war.
- 1994 -- El Salvador holds its first presidential election since the war. The election is won by the right-wing ARENA party. The FMLN, the party of former guerrillas from the war, comes in second.
- 1994-1999 -- Mary Campbell serves as a missionary from the Greater Milwaukee Synod in El Salvador
- 1996 -- Bishop Gomez and Pastor Abelina Gómez attend Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly
- 1997 -- Beginning of GMS delegations visiting Lutheran Church of El Salvador communities and Comunidad Rutilio Grande
- 1998 -- St. John's & Los Héroes de la Fe become partner churches
- 1999 -- Grace and Mi Buen Jesús become partner churches.

- 1999 – Second post-war presidential election. A delegation from Milwaukee acts as election observers. ARENA wins again. During the delegation trip, Abiding Savoir and Pan de Vida/2 de Mayo become partner churches.
- 2000 – GMS & Rutilio Grande Scholarship Program begins. GMS delegation of 25 visits El Salvador. Atonement and Espiritu de Paz begin partner relationship. St. Peter's and Apostoles de Cristo begin partner relationship. All Peoples joins St. John's in partnership with Los Héroes de la Fe.
- 2000 – First Mission of Healing in El Salvador (in Los Héroes)
- January & February 2001 – Earthquakes cause great damage and loss of life; the Lutheran Church coordinates a response. Milwaukee Synod sends Caravan of Hope. Churches respond with a variety of long-term projects and support.
- 2002 – FMLN wins a plurality of seats in the Salvadoran legislature. Cross of Life and Cordero de Dios begin sister relationship. Teachers from Rutilio Grande visit Milwaukee.
- 2003 – Bishop Paul Stumme-Diers visits El Salvador
- February 2004 – First Capacitación (training event for pastors and teachers) coordinated by Milwaukee & Salvadoran Lutheran Church
- 2004 – Bishop Gómez and Pastor Abelina Gómez at GM Synod Assembly. Endowment Fund campaign begins. Our Savior's and Fe y Esperanza begin sister relationship. Tim's El Salvador Blog begins.
- 2004-2005 – Container of Hope Project
- Memorial Lutheran joins Abiding Savior in partnership with Pan de Vida
- 2006 – Pastor Carlos Najera and Pastor Norma Castillo visit Milwaukee (Pr. Carlos at Synod Assembly). Subversive Cross Campaign begins. Galilee and El Renacer de los Martíres begin their partner relationship. North Cape and El Jesús de la Vida begin their partner relationship.
- September 2006 – The Salvadoran Lutheran Church hosts the Mutirao, a gathering of international leaders to discuss the vision and ministry priorities and financial health of the SLC. Mary Campbell and Linda Muth present information about the Endowment Fund.
- November 4, 2006 – Pastor Francisco Carrillo and Pastor Jesús Carrillo are murdered outside of their church in 2 de Mayo. (Sister churches Abiding Savior and Memorial)
- July 2007 – The Salvadoran Lutheran Church hosts the first Encuentro for companion synod and partner church representatives. Milwaukee sends a delegation.
- May 2008 – Bishop Medardo Gómez visits Milwaukee to celebrate the 20 years of Companion Synod relationship between the Greater Milwaukee Synod and the Salvadoran Lutheran Church
- November 2009 – Flash floods devastate communities in the central zone of El Salvador and the Lutheran Church organizes a response
- November 2009 – The Salvadoran Lutheran Church hosts the second Encuentro for companion synod and partner church representatives. Milwaukee sends a large delegation.
- 2009 – Church of the Resurrection and Monte Carmelo begin their partner relationship.
- January & February 2010 – Capacitación and Mission of Healing continue to be annual events with increased leadership from the SLC and continued support from Milwaukee