

Year by Year History of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church

From an undated letter written by Bishop Medardo Gómez

The Salvadoran Lutheran Church, in its history, has had various stages. I have divided it into 4 important stages, they are:

1. Founding and inception of the communities (1953-1970)
2. Legalization of the church and beginning of the process of conversion (1970-1980)
3. Emergence of the Theology of Life (1980-1992). Accompanying the people in the special pastoral attention for the most in need
4. Development of the Church (1992-2004) - From 2004 onwards, taking the Mutirao as an important sign that would begin a new stage of the church, the stage of strengthening and reorganization

I have here some historical dates of the footsteps of our church:

- 1953 – The year of the beginning of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, the visit of Pastor Robert Gussick to the people of Pasaquina, La Unión
- 1964 - First ordination of Central American pastors in San Salvador. Pastors were prepared by the missionaries of the [Lutheran Church] Missouri Synod.
- 1965 - Sent the young people to study theology in the Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico
- 1969 – The Soccer War or 100 Days War - between El Salvador and Honduras, the start of the diaconal work of the church to attend to the Salvadorans who were expelled from Honduras
- 1970 - The legal status for the Salvadoran Lutheran Church is obtained
- 1972 - The Resurrection Lutheran Church is founded
- 1972-1980 - Time that characterized the rooting of the Church... that is to say, take on nationality, be incarnated in reality and initiate the process of growth. In this period the new graduates from the Mexican Seminary were incorporated.
- 1980 - Assassination of Romero and beginning of the people's war
- 1982 - Creation of the Refuge of Faith and Hope, more than 500 families were attended to and organized the diaconal work of the Church
- 1983 - Kidnapping of Pastors Medardo E. Gómez and Dr. Angel Ibarra by the death squads
- 1986 - Ordination of the Bishop and recognition of the pastoral workers on the levels of Deacons, Evangelists, and Catechists
- 1987 - Ecumenical meeting to decide the founding of the Salvadoran Lutheran University, convened for the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, with the project of preparing the future pastors
- 1988 - Definitive withdrawal of the Missouri Synod
- 1991 - Inauguration and founding of the Salvadoran Lutheran University
- 1992 - Signing of the Salvadoran Peace Accords in Mexico
- 1992-2003 - Extension and development of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church

Finally, as Bishop I feel content because it is a great opportunity for my church to which I have dedicated my life and the best of myself. I am concerned that we resolve the problems and reorganize ourselves, because it would be unjust and incorrect to lose the valuable pastoral testimony we have given.