



**HISTORIC ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
"COMEDOR POPULAR" SOUP KITCHEN**

2108 W. 21st Street, Chicago, IL 60608

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"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"

LENT, February, 2008

ST. MATTHEW'S JOURNEY OF FAITH

**OUR FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST IS A MATTER OF LOVE AND
FAITH**

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greeks, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26-28

Dear Friends and Relatives:

May Christ's message of Lent bring us closer in our fellowship and strengthen our desire to share God's Word of salvation of souls.

Lent is a time to make an introspection of our souls and seek the restoration of our lives to better serve Him and His Church.

I thank you for your prayers and generous support to St. Matthew's multiethnic ministry amongst the homeless, seniors and children of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. In the coldest winter days St.

Matthew's Comedor Popular soup kitchen has had an increase of hungry persons some wearing two jackets, with watering eyes because of the cold and limping after long walks on the snow. It was a joy to see them smile as they received a tray with a hot meal.

**FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AN
EXPERIENCE OF FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST.** In the year of 1969,

I was installed as a Pastor in my first parish, at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lockhart, Minnesota, 45 miles

Northwest of Moorhead. My congregation was made up by Americans of German and Norwegian background; at one time I

was told, when a German married a Norwegian it was called a "mixed marriage", I too am married to Janice who is of Norwegian ancestry. With time, Grandpa Merkens passed away and also Phil Erickson in a farm accident. I know the Hess, Peterson, Eckhoff,

Merkens and other families are still around. What is so unique in this experience is that after 39 years, the members of First English followed my ministry wherever I went; a week ago Linda Merkens

from First English a struggling congregation in a farm land, sent a check for \$100 to support St. Matthew's faith mission in Chicago. **The value of their support goes beyond the amount of money, it tells us that our fellowship in Christ is not a matter of sharing the same ethnic background or culture, but is a matter of love and faith in God, St. Paul wrote: "for you are all one in Christ."** This is the experience we share at St. Matthew's soup kitchen and with you who help St. Matthew's mission of love and compassion where our souls merge under Christ's love. First English is ministered by a pastor of the LCMS.

ST. MATTHEW'S MARIA "THE MIRACLE WORKER"

UNDERWENT SURGERY. On Wednesday, St. Valentine's day, St. Matthew's faithful servant of the Lord, Maria L. Leal, underwent breast surgery for the removal of cancer at the University of Illinois Hospital, while she is recuperating at home, her sister Yeya, Ala Skurska from Poland and the rest of the volunteers continue to feed on Tuesdays and Thursdays the homeless and low income families. Maria does not have health insurance because of lack of funds. We ask for your prayers for Maria who for 20 years has faithfully shared God's love in word and deed with the less fortunate in Chicago.

NEW VOLUNTEER JOINS ST. MATTHEW'S JOURNEY OF FAITH. Mark Noriega born in Chicago has joined "El Comedor Popular" soup kitchen to help "the poor serve the poor". Mark is unemployed and came to St. Matthew's soup kitchen for food; he attends Sunday Worship services and sometimes reads a Bible lesson. He has done some repair work on the hall's roof, St. Paul wrote "We have this treasure in jars of clay" 2 Corinthians 4:7. May God continue to bless our fellowship and partnership in Christ to feed the soul and body of the hungry in Chicago.

In Christ,


Pastor Julio Antonio Loza

Please see next page, Photo News

MISSION OF HOPE AND SURVIVAL

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

EL COMEDOR POPULAR SOUP KITCHEN

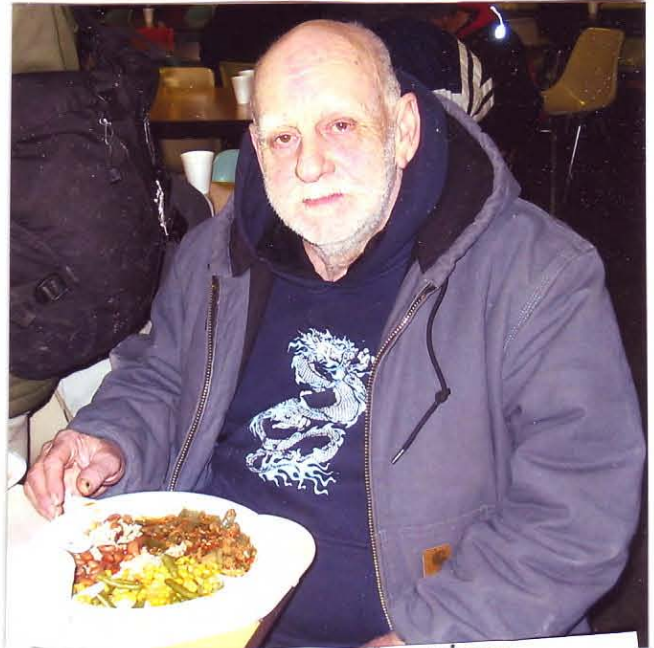
2108 W. 21ST. St., Chicago, IL 60608 Rev. Julio A. Loza, Pastor
Director of Community Services: Maria L. Leal Tel. 773-847-6458

PHOTO NEWS

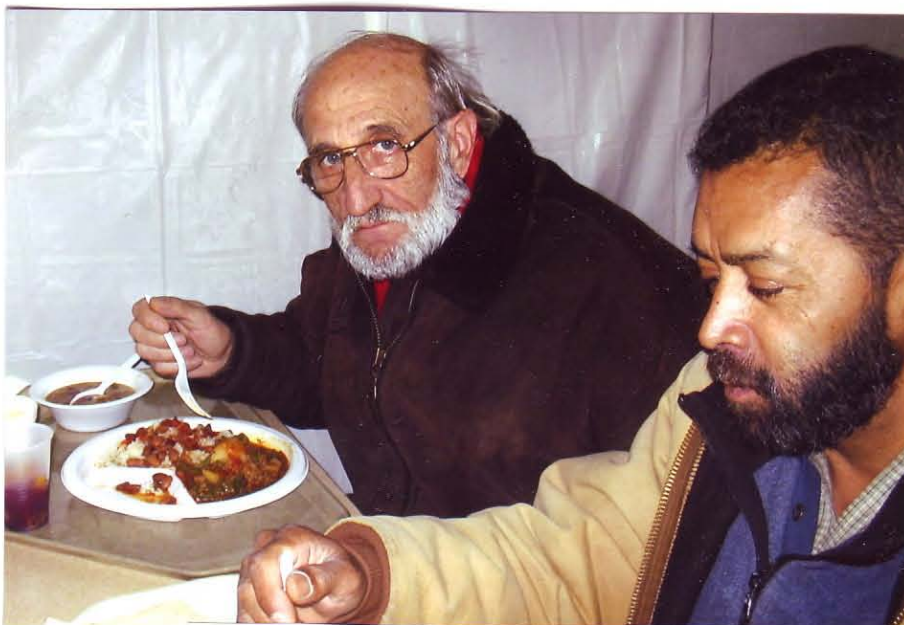
OUR FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST IS A MATTER OF LOVE AND FAITH



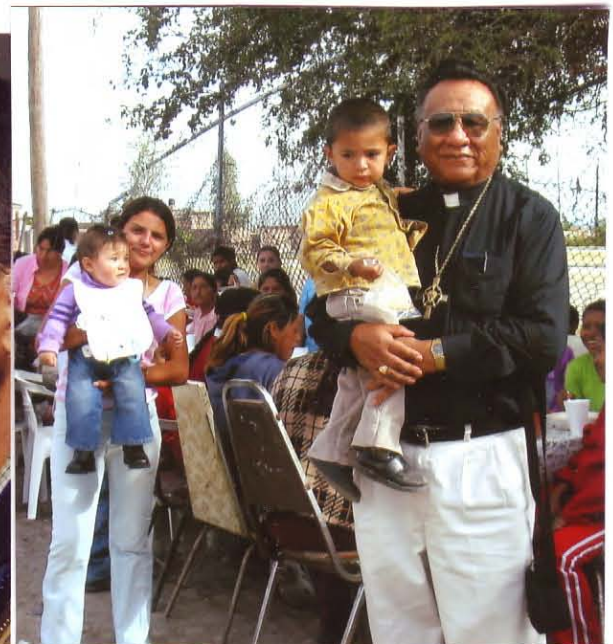
Maria Leal "the miracle worker" at St. Matthew, had breast surgery at the University of IL Hospital.



Hunger has no age barriers, an Arizona man eats at St. Matthew



Hunger has no ethnic barriers, God's love is shared in a meal



Rev. Loza holds child at La Barca Soup kitchen in Jalisco, Mexico God's miracle of love is shared.