



You're Invited! **VIRTUAL GALA**

September 12, 2020

7:00 PM ET

What is a companion synod?

Companion synods connect Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods. These relationships are rooted in "accompaniment," meaning companion synods offer mutual care to one another through relationship building, prayer, and program support.

The ELCA Southeastern Synod (SES) and the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG) have been walking together as companion synods for many years, nurturing and strengthening one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors, and sharing of resources. Currently, ILAG has more than 2,000 members in 17 congregations.

What is MILAGRO?

Since its founding in 1991, ILAG has ministered to people living on the margins of Guatemalan society, particularly the indigenous poor. One of ILAG's key programs is the MILAGRO Women's Education Center, a school dedicated to empowering rural Guatemalan women through education. At MILAGRO, young women develop a wide range of skills vital to a future with great possibilities. They learn to start sustainable businesses and prepare to be leaders in their churches, communities, and families.

How can we support this ministry?

The ELCA SES is hosting a virtual **MILAGRO Gala** on **September 12th, 7:00 PM ET**. The virtual gala will feature information about MILAGRO's important work and will include:

- A musical premiere from the Aurora Octubre 8 Marimba Band of Guatemala
- Updates from ILAG Pastor Karen Castillo, Diego Gil, and others
- Greetings from the young women studying at MILAGRO
- A message from ELCA SES Bishop Kevin Strickland
- Stories from SES members who have shared time with our friends in Guatemala

It costs approximately \$5,000 per year to educate a young woman at MILAGRO. This includes her room, board, tuition, and expenses. It's a 10-month program, so \$500 will cover a full month. In spite of the pandemic, MILAGRO continues and the number of participants is growing. Any gift, large or small, will make a difference.

More details about the event are available by visiting the website, which features recipes for creating your own Guatemalan feast at home. Please join us for this special event in support of our friends in Guatemala.

Learn More and Give Now

www.ELCA-SES.org/gala

