

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Mexicali 2020 Information Packet

“Mexicali 101”

Our Shepherd’s Youth Mission Trip to Mexicali, Mexico

Tentatively April 2 – 10, 2020

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? And the Answers.

Who...

1. Is going?

- Any current 8th-12th grader
- Trip Coordinator: Dave Priskorn (16th year) (248-705-7874)
- Trip Leader: Pastor Mike Vieregge (8th year) (248-595-9556)

From metro Detroit this year, 316 Octane (Trinity, Utica) and St. John, Rochester, who may partner with us for training and travel.

What...

1. Is it?

This is an advanced youth mission trip offered to us through Azusa Pacific University (APU, check out www.mexicou Outreach.org). It is primarily a vacation bible school (VBS) ministry. Our team(s) will be assigned to a small church in a Mexican village and teach a VBS curriculum to the local children for 5 days. We will also spend time performing community service projects in the community and our ministry sites. We will briefly spend time in California before and after the VBS mission. This year, we plan to drive into Mexico Friday afternoon, and spend Saturday doing some type of hands-on construction/community service project, perhaps at San Juan Lutheran Church. VBS will be at our ministry sites Sun-Thurs. This is Our Shepherd’s 17th year participating in this trip.

2. Will we be doing?

In Mexico - A typical day: We stay in a gated camp site where we have breakfast and participate in morning worship. We pick up our lunch cooler, then head out to lead our VBS lessons and skits, hang out with kids, and build relationships with the people at our ministry sites. We will also perform community service and perhaps light construction projects around the city and at our ministry sites. After our VBS day, we will head back to camp for dinner and evening worship. There is a market inside our camp where we can support the local community by purchasing blankets, jewelry, clothes and more. After evening worship we have small group time, and then turn in by 10:45.

In California - We will spend brief time sightseeing, picking up our supplies for the week, and preparing our hearts for service with worship and communion. We want the youth to enjoy this time but come home talking about mission work, not the beach! We will also spend time in devotions and final meetings at the hotel.

3. Are our goals?

- Help the churches in Mexicali grow and provide a boost to their ministry
- Build relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Mexicali
- Have fun
- Help our youth’s faith grow and mature (It can be a life changing experience!)
- Provide leadership opportunities for our youth

Area 12:2 Youth Ministry, David Priskorn, Mexicali Mission Trip Coordinator
Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2225 E 14 Mile Rd, Birmingham, MI 48009

Where...

1. Are we going?

Just over the US border to Mexicali, Mexico, via San Diego, California. Mexicali is a modern, sprawling border city of approximately 700,000 people about 125 miles inland, east of San Diego and Tijuana. It is the capital of the Mexican state of Baja California.

We fly from Detroit Metro Airport into San Diego International Airport.

2. Do we stay?

In Mexico - We will be staying at a camp, famously named 'Tent City' with around 500 other campers from churches all over the country. This gated camp is fully staffed with APU workers. There are porta potties (a.k.a. banos) that are our bathroom facilities. Yes, this means no running water, therefore no showers in Mexico.

In California - We will stay at a hotel in San Diego and/or El Centro that provides a free breakfast.

When...

1. Is the Trip?

Over Spring Break. The approximate travel dates are April 2-10, 2020.

2. Do you have to decide?

The Our Shepherd application, commitment form and \$150 non-refundable deposit are due on or before December 15th, 2019 turned in to Dave Priskorn at the church office.

Why...

1. Should you go?

An opportunity to serve alongside other students and witness God at work in a unique environment. It is a proven life-changing experience for our students. Talk to any student that has previously attended!

How...

1. Much does it cost?

Cost per youth is \$1450.00 (covers camp food and fees, airfare, 2 hotel nights, van rentals, some mission supplies such as tents, coolers, craft supplies, gas, piñatas for the Mexican kids, etc). This cost does not cover travel meals, souvenirs, and spending money.

2. Do we pay for the trip?

Two options: A) Pay in Full (Either one time or monthly payments)
B) Offer a financial commitment and fundraise

3. Do we prepare?

- Complete application and commitment forms and APU required paperwork by due dates
- First time participants attend a brief interview with at least one parent and Trip leaders prior to the first meeting
- Attend all planning sessions on Sundays, in the teen room from 12:30-3:00pm.
- Parent attendance at a meeting held the week prior to departure
- Fund-raising participation
 - Write a minimum of 20 support letters (Aunt Polly Letters) to friends, family, doctor/dentist, etc, but NOT to any OSLC members.
 - One other fundraising event
 - Work on your Spanish!

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4. Do we know our youth are safe?

- We are staying in a 'gated' community campsite set up specifically for this mission trip by APU (they have been doing this fabulous work for 50 years and have wonderful relationships with the Mexican community and local government) We only travel as teams, and only during daylight hours. Check out www.howsafeismexico.com
- There is an on-site infirmary and US hospital is just across the border, if needed.

5. Do we know what to bring?

A tentative list will be provided once you commit to the trip and is available at <http://ourshepherd.net/ministries/youth/> Examples of items you will need to bring: large rolling hockey/duffle bag, sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, baby wipes, deodorant, and skirts for girls. Due to Mexican culture, girls are required to wear ankle length skirts at the church site, and can wear pants at the camp, no shorts allowed. Boys wear pants, no shorts allowed.

6. Do we get everything on the plane?

Each youth will check their large rolling duffle bag; their assigned 2nd team item (either a tent, guitar, cooler, supply bin) and then carries on their backpack.

7. Do we get across the border?

Passports are required for each youth to cross into Mexico. They cost about \$100.00 and take about 4-6 weeks. We must have a color copy of your passport no later than January 5, so apply now! More info can be found at www.travel.state.gov

Please review travel and security policies with your child prior to the trip.

Questions...

Please feel free to contact Dave Priskorn by phone or email. 248-705-7874 or dave@ourshepherd.net

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Mexicali 2020 Calendar

Mexicali a.k.a. "FLEXICALI"...Some things will change

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ___ December 15th Application, Deposit, Permission and Immigration Paperwork Due (No formal meeting, just Paperwork collection 12:30-1:30)
(Notary will be on-site in the Teen Room at 12:30pm this day for the Travel Consent form which is required for students under 18. At least 1 parent must be present.)
- ___ January 4 Leader Training (applies to leaders only)
- ___ January 5th Youth/Family Commitment \$, Aunt Polly Letters, and Copy of Passport due
- ___ TBD Team Lock-in
- ___ March 29th Commissioning at 11 am service, Parent Meeting after

PLANNING SESSION SCHEDULE

Sundays in the Teen Room at OSLC 12:30-3:00pm (Dates and times subject to change)

- ___ (1) January 5th
- ___ (2) January 26th
- ___ (3) February 9th
- ___ (4) February 23rd
- ___ (5) March 1st
- ___ (6) March 15th
- ___ (7) March 29th – Commissioning Service (11am) & Parent Meeting 12:30-1:30. Team Meeting 1:30-4:00.

TRIP DATES

- ___ April 2nd – April 10th, 2020

TESTIMONY SERVICES

- ___ April 18th at 6:00pm with family dinner afterwards
- ___ April 19th

Note: If you plan to miss more than one of the above dates, you should reconsider going on the trip. Please talk with Dave if necessary.