

Día de Los Muertos and Spanish Too: Latine Ministry at Christ the King Church
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Who are Latine Folks?

The Geography of Latinidad

- Caribbean, Central and South America
- The United States: A Latin American Country?

Census 2020: Houston, Texas

- Majority growth (95%) in Texas over 10 years has come from communities of color
- Houston Majority Group seeing growth: Latin/Hispanic folks

Terminology and Identity

- Latinx
- Latino
- Hispanic
- Latine

Latine Ministry

- First Generation Ministry: Immigrants (Traditional Focus in the US)
- Second Generation Ministry: The Bridge-Builders (Millennial and Gen Z)
- Third through Fifth: The Established (Challenge)

Misconceptions

- Roman Catholic Predominate
- Language- "Do we really understand each other?"
- Economic and Educational Attainment
- The pervasive nature of technology as intergenerational reality
- Pan-Latinidad as a given
- Race, Ethnicity and systemic issues

Key Ideas

- Familia as cultural/society unit
- Sexuality and modesty
- Justicia and Justification as two-sides of the same coin
- Compromisos as moving the needle forward
- Liberation theology is not the predominate theological perspective
- La Pena (shame)
- Compadres y comadres (the obligations of friends): *"Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are"*

- The quotidian as the place where faith is nurtured
- Focus on suffering and life-as-it-really-is
- Sacraments as cultural and familial obligations
- Indigenous healing practices as faith practices

Ministry at CTK

I am a “Border-Theologian”

A Theology of the Cross from the Rio Grande. Not a Liberation Theologian from Border

Focus on commonalities between white Lutherans and Latine folks

- Mary, the Mother of the Lord as proclaiming the gospel in her womb
- Luther’s Commentary on the Magnificat (1521): An Authentic Lutheran Marianist Theology for politicians and leaders. I consider the 4th and the best of Luther’s three treatises printed in the 1520s.
- The place of vocation and station as the place where faith is nurtured and lives in love.
- God as our ever-present merciful lord.
- Faith as entrusting oneself to that merciful lord.
- The Spirit of God brings forth life, healing and forgiveness through faith
- The Communion of Saints
- Hospitality as welcoming and taking care of widows, orphans, immigrants and the vulnerable.

Focus on Cultural and relational Competencies

- Dia de Los Muertos is a celebration of the victory of Life over Death in our families. Not a replacement for All Saints Day.
- La Virgen de Guadalupe is not un-lutheran. She represents the inculturation of the gospel as properly within the family; the union of location, vocation and faith.
- Las Posadas is a familia-centered practice that moves one to be hospitable to the stranger; to angels unaware.
- Celebrating Saint Feast Days
- Focus on developing Compadres y Compadres: House Church Program is an extension of this.
- Focus on “building bridges” within the Great Houston community