



## HISTORIC ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

### “COMEDOR POPULAR” SOUP KITCHEN

2108 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60608

Rev. Julio A. Loza, Pastor Maria L. Leal, Director Community Services

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“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat”

November, 2011 **WEBSITE: [stmatthewchicago.org](http://stmatthewchicago.org)**  
**ST. MATTHEW’S JOURNEY OF FAITH CONTINUES**

### **GOD’S MIRACLE OF LOVE ON 21<sup>ST</sup>. STREET**

***“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love. I have told you this that my joy be in you and your joy may be complete.” 15:9-11***

Dear Friends and Relatives:

Again our good Lord has given us the opportunity to celebrate his blessings with Thanksgiving and a desire to endure in our commitment to share His Word and love with our fellow neighbors.

Historic St. Matthew Lutheran Church is located in the heart of Chicago, about 10 minutes from downtown by train, located on 21<sup>st</sup>. Street; its building with a Gothic structure is 123 years old. At St. Matthew thousands of souls have listened to the saving message of Christ and nourished their souls with God’s Holy Word. A journey that began with German immigrants continues with new immigrants and Americans of different nationalities. St. Matthew has witnessed God’s miracles of love in different ways. Its Christian mission was about to become foreclosed by financial attrition several times. God has continued to provide through mission partners and about 5 years ago St. Matthew took a step of faith to become a self-supporting mission of love and compassion. We are thankful for God’s miracle of love!

**GOD BESTOWS HEALING OF CANCER TO MARIA LEAL.** About two years ago, Maria was diagnosed with cancer at the University of Illinois Hospital; she underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment. In spite of this awful handicap, Maria remained a faithful servant of God feeding the homeless and unemployed at St. Matthew’s Soup Kitchen. Though sometimes she suffered with symptoms of general weakness she endured in her faith to God. Every Sunday at St. Matthew prayers of healing were said asking God to heal Maria. Friends and fellow Lutherans prayed and sent get well cards. The Rev. Phil Ressler, Pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, La Fox, Illinois and some of his members visited Maria at her home in Chicago and prayed for her healing.

A month ago, Maria's doctor at the University of Illinois Hospital told her that she was cancer free; though she was warned that sometimes this disease can return back. We praise God, with Maria, for God's miracle of love on 21st. street where St. Matthew is located in Chicago. How true it is that God can cleanse our souls from sin and also heal our illnesses. This is a Thanksgiving of God's miracle of love.

**THANKSGIVING TURKEY DINNER FOR THE HOMELESS AND UNEMPLOYED.** On Tuesday, November 22, at noon, at St. Matthew Center, a Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner will be served to the homeless and unemployed at 12:00 p.m. About 20 members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Matteson, Illinois will help to serve the turkey meals with a Mexican touch of "mole" and tortillas.

The Chicago Gazette Magazine plans to cover the event. Maria Leal is requesting our partners in mission for 25 turkeys about 20 pounds each, or donations to purchase the turkeys and other food items for the Thanksgiving event.

**A NEW BOILER INSTALLED AT ST. MATTHEW CENTER.** The Alliance Boiler Co., referred to St. Matthew by Lutheran Church Charities, has installed a new boiler at St. Matthew Center for \$10,000, this is the lowest bit we have received and will save money for a new water heater in the same building.

**"I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS THAT MY JOY BE IN YOU AND YOUR JOY BE COMPLETE."** St. Matthew as a self-supporting mission of faith continues to walk in the steps of Jesus by providing the poor with hope in Jesus, offering God's healing to the sick, feeding the hungry and providing spiritual shelter to those neglected in a community beset by social ills.

I thank you for your prayers and support and ask God to bless our partnership in a mission of love and compassion in Chicago.

I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving filled with the love and joy of our God.

In Christ,



Pastor Julio Antonio Loza

Please see page 3, Photo News.

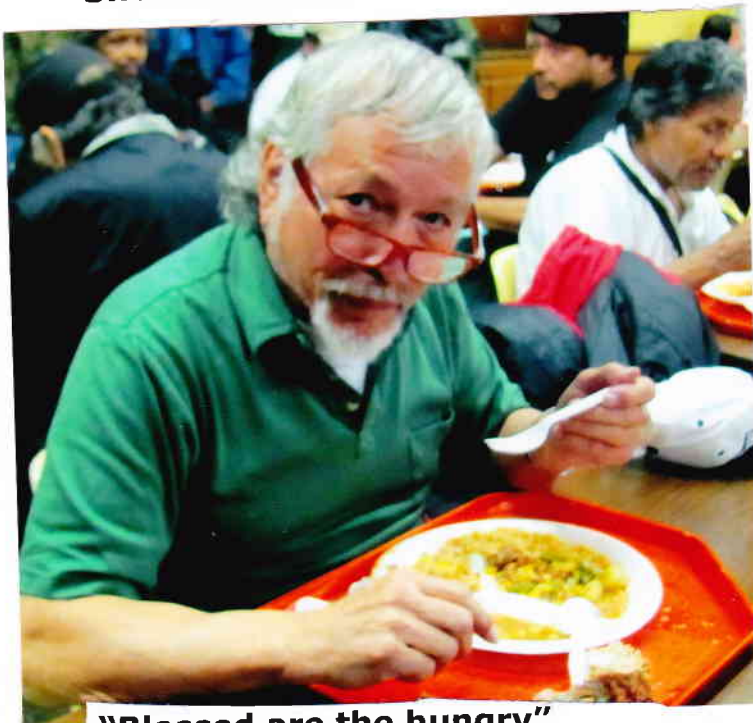
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November, 2011 "GODS MIRACLE OF LOVE ON 21<sup>ST</sup> STREET"  
**PHOTO NEWS**



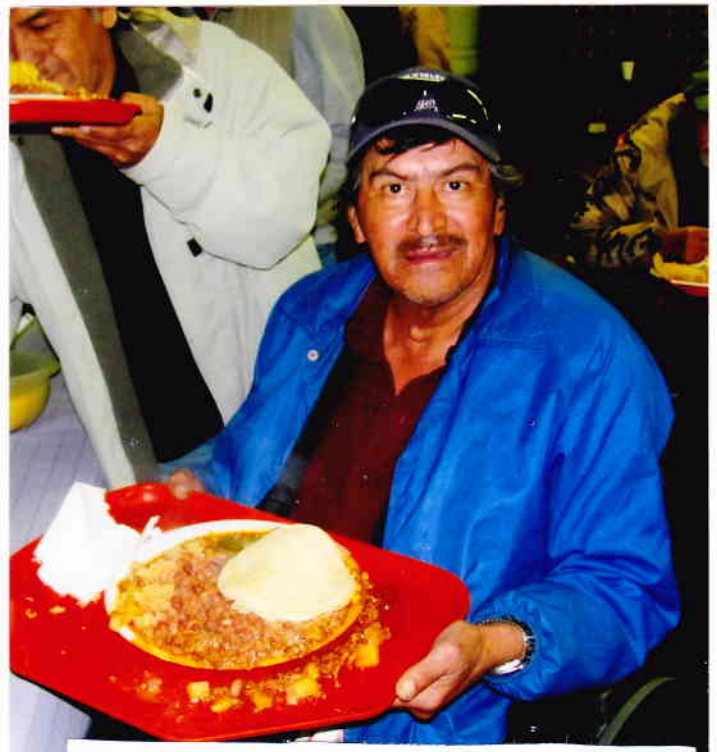
**God's miracle of love!  
Maria Leal, is free of cancer!  
She feeds the hungry.**



**St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen, celebrates  
THANKSGIVING by sharing food with the hungry.**



**"Blessed are the hungry"  
Unemployed is fed at St. Matthew.**



**Former volunteer at Soup Kitchen  
lost his legs to diabetes, now is  
fed at St. Matthew.**