



Companion Synod Program

Esquel, Argentina

Esquel is a picturesque city nestled in a fertile valley between three mountains in the Andes. It is a modern city of about 30,000 and the main commercial center of the area. Esquel attracts tourists as it is near a national park and ski resort. It isn't unusual to see a gaucho (cowboy) from a surrounding estancia (ranch) walking downtown. Winters (June-September) are cold with rain and snow and summers are temperate and sunny.

Hope of the South Lutheran Congregation, pastored by Sergio Utz, is involved in numerous activities. Along with regular worship services, Sunday School, weddings, baptisms, and confirmation it also supports Copa de Leche (Cup of Milk Program) and Guitarreada, a musical get together. They have put an enormous amount of effort into repairs and construction of buildings.

The congregation is also involved in community activities. For example, it will

be part of Esquel's centennial celebrations this year. And, it joins monthly demonstrations against the development of an open pit gold mine 7 km upstream from the city. See more information at: www.nodirtygold.org/esquel_argentina.cfm

Congregational goals include:

- To strengthen work with children and youth.
- To continue and strengthen the Cup of Milk Program.
- Begin Bible studies, a prayer group, and a youth group.
- To connect with the less expensive natural gas network (they have had to suspend activities during the winter, due to inadequate heating).
- To build a bell tower unique to the city.

Want to get involved?

Contact ELCIC Sask Synod

**Phone: (306) 244-2474
or visit
www.sasksynod.elcic**



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