

Emely Chavez Reyes, El Salvador

Pastor Emely Chavez Reyes, pastor at Pan de Vida Lutheran Church, Jayaque, La Libertad, also volunteers at the national level as a leader in the **Salvadoran Lutheran Sinod (SLS) Comprehensive Health Program**. In that role, she develops training processes for health leaders and contributes to forming strategies for the program. A leader in the management of natural medicines, Pastor Emely shares her knowledge of ancestral health practices to improve health, from the use of medicinal plants to breathing techniques to reflexology techniques for rehabilitation of ankle joints damaged by falling on streets in poor condition. Pastor Emely also facilitates coordination between the health units and schools and is a health educator herself, sharing information with students including for sexual and reproductive health.

Through her work as a pastor as well as her ministry with homeless people and those struggling with addiction, Pastor Emely reaches directly into struggling communities with hope and healing. The same is true of her work through the church's health program, as she reaches hundreds of students and families with information to improve physical, mental and spiritual health.

Nominated by: Concepción Marina Ángel Vanegas

