



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #466

August 7, 2019

9th Sunday after Pentecost (August 11, 2019)



Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Readings

- [Genesis 15:1-6](#) - *God's promise of a child for Abram and Sarai*
- [Psalm 33:12-22](#) - *Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)*
- [Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16](#) - *A model for us: Abraham's faith in a new home given by God*
- [Luke 12:32-40](#) - *God will give you the treasure of the kingdom; sell all that you have*

A Kingdom for the Little Flock

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock, straining our minds with this uninhibited generosity. Even to us, so little and undeserving? Even to us, in the face of so many things to be afraid of? Suddenly everything we hold dear in this world is repriced, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not sell our possessions and give to those in need? We are being given the kingdom! So why not wait on expectant tiptoes for the master? When he comes he will wait on us! The Father's free generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never before known. Fear is now met with anticipation, and tightfistedness with open hands. We are being given the kingdom, so now we know what true treasure looks like. And yet, like our fathers and mothers in faith that the Hebrews reading speaks of, we too "desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one." But in Christ our heavenly country has already arrived. In him, God has freely given us the kingdom.



2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-10, 2019 • MILWAUKEE

Elizabeth Eaton re-elected presiding bishop of the ELCA

MILWAUKEE (August 6, 2019) — The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton was re-elected presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Aug. 6 at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. On the first ballot, 897 votes were cast and 670 votes were needed for election. Eaton received 725 votes, which is 81.19% of the vote.

Eaton is the first ELCA presiding bishop to win re-election on the first ballot. She was elected to a first term as presiding bishop at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh. ([MORE](#))

Today around 750 Lutherans, including voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, gathered for a prayer vigil in support of migrant children and families. They walked from the Wisconsin Center to the nearby U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.



More to Come

In addition to reports and action on the budget, the following are some of the upcoming items of business for the Assembly

- Continued balloting for Secretary
- Consideration of "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment"
- Consideration of Proposed Social Statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action"
- Consideration of a Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA
- 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Live streaming of churchwide assembly

Plenary sessions and worship are being live streamed on the [ELCA website](#). We are all invited and encouraged to view the worship and work of the fifteenth Churchwide Assembly. Videos of completed sessions are available on the site too. Visit the website <https://elca.org/churchwideassembly> for more information.

For more information and photos of the assembly visit the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) Facebook page. [The Living Lutheran](#) also provides coverage of the Assembly.

Campaign for the ELCA Update

Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director for ELCA Mission Advancement, reported to the assembly, "Six years ago, at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, this church set the bold and daring goal of raising \$198 million for existing and new ministry initiatives. "Since the campaign's launch, ELCA ministries have witnessed amazing generosity and support from synods, congregations, members and volunteers. Thank you for what you have done to contribute to such an incredible impact across this church." Campaign steering committee co-chairs Loren and MaryAnn Anderson announced to the assembly that the campaign has raised \$250 million in cash, multiyear commitments and planned gift commitments. Jackson-Skelton and Rev. Ron Glusenkamp, director for the campaign, provided the assembly with an overview of its impact:

- Since 2014, the campaign contributed towards the approval of 281 new start congregation. There are currently 365 new ELCA ministries under development in the United States and the Caribbean.
- Through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, 450 young adults were encouraged to serve in more than ten country programs around the world.
- Through the ELCA's International Women Leaders program, 189 women leaders from our global companions were awarded academic training opportunities, from weeklong seminars to full-tuition scholarships at ELCA colleges and universities.
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan was established, and in Juba, the capital city, the Reconciliation Lutheran Church Community Center and Primary Health Care Clinic opened its doors in November 2017.
- Through ELCA Fund for Leaders, more than 1,300 students were provided with seminary scholarships.
- Income for ELCA World Hunger in 2018 exceeded its income in 2013, the year preceding the campaign, by more than 20%.

"There is no doubt that we have been changed by this campaign," said Glusenkamp. "The generosity of this church and the ability to be about deepening our mission impact brings to life our campaign theme, which was inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17: 'So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!'"

Lutherans support struggle against repression, violence and poverty in Honduras

Ten years on from the military coup against President Mel Zelaya in Honduras, the Lutheran church in the Central American nation continues to raise its voice for justice and peace in the country, while providing practical support to migrants and returning refugees.



The June 2009 coup brought unprecedented political turmoil, leaving in its wake a legacy of some of the highest levels of violence and poverty in the world. Unresolved accusations of electoral fraud and corruption by the current government have brought masses of people onto the streets in ongoing strikes and protests since November 2017.

Currently protests include national strikes by the main trade unions of teachers and doctors, as well as university and school students, transport workers and even sections of the police. Violence, including assassinations, imprisonment and repression create a complex and dangerous environment in which the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (ICLH) remains a prophetic presence. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member church is in solidarity with the most marginalized, offering alternatives to the widespread phenomenon of migration.

[\(MORE\)](#)

SAVE THE DATE - Mark your calendar now and save the date. We will hold our next MI Gathering in the morning of **Saturday Sept 14** and our orientation for new Mission Interpreters that afternoon. The location and other details will be coming soon. See you then.

Coming Events:

Date	Event/Activity	Resources
Aug 10, 2019 8am to 4pm	Lutherdale's 33 rd Annual Annual Quilt Fest - Lutherdale, N7891 US Highway 12, Elkhorn, WI 53121	For more information visit https://www.lutherdale.org/quilts/
Sept 8, 2019	"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday At as many locations as possible	For information and resources see https://elca.org/dayofservice
Sept 19, 2019	Concordia Place - A Taste for All Venue West, 221 N Paulina St Chicago, IL	For more information visit https://www.concordiaplace.org/atasteforall/
Oct 19, 2019	Installation of Rev. Yehiel Curry as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago,	For more information visit http://www.mtselca.org/