



# Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

## Mission Memo #469

August 28, 2019

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (September 1, 2019)



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at the banquet table of the Lord. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

### Readings

- [Proverbs 25:6-7](#) - *Do not put yourself forward*
- [Psalm 112](#) - *The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)*
- [Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16](#) - *God is with us: let acts of mutual love continue*
- [Luke 14:1, 7-14](#) - *An image of God's reign: invite the poor, crippled to your banquet*

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### Radical Love Triumphs

For most of human history wisdom was largely part of an oral tradition. From one generation to the next, wisdom was passed down. These days it sometimes seems that technology has replaced that tradition of shared wisdom. Rather than ask a trusted elder the temptation is to pull out a smartphone and do a quick Internet search. Next thing you know, there it is, wisdom at your fingertips—maybe. Could it be that something is lost in the process? We can find facts online, but virtues like humility, respect of elders, hospitality, servanthood, and peacemaking do not seem to translate as easily in the electronic age. In the gospel reading Jesus takes the time to pass on some ancient-yet-prudent wisdom from the proverbs of Solomon to a crowd of social climbers who obviously were not familiar with such prudence or wisdom.

More significantly Jesus lifts up the mysteriously gracious and life-transforming values of the kingdom of God. Jesus lifts up the humility required to take the lowest seat at the table, never hoping to be invited to a place of greater honor or status. Jesus invites his followers to practice the hospitality that offers a banquet of the finest of foods for people who cannot repay. Jesus invites his followers to embody the kind of radical-yet-relational love of Jesus himself. This radical love is taught by both individuals and

congregations. Communities of faith by their practices of generosity and compassion embody the love of Jesus in their communities.

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**Calling all Mission Interpreters and Those who want to be** - I hope you



have **SAVED THE DATE** on your calendar. We will hold our fall MI Gathering in the morning of **Saturday Sept 14** and our orientation for new Mission Interpreters that afternoon. Coffee and treats will be available at 8:45 am with our Gathering for new and experienced MI's at 9:00 am. Our Gathering will go until noon and Orientation for new Mission Interpreters will begin at 1:00 pm. We will meet at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 119 W. Wise Road, Schaumburg.

### **Stories of Faith in Action**

Stories of Faith in Action is an annual publication highlighting how God changes lives through the ministries funded by your congregation's unrestricted offering of Mission Support, which is shared with our synod and the ELCA churchwide organization. Stories of Faith in Action and the resources that go along with it help to share how important the weekly offering in our congregations are in sustaining and growing God's mission. Stories, videos, bulletin inserts and an infographic explaining "Where does my offering go?" are available at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](http://ELCA.org/SOFIA). We will be sharing this at the MI Gathering.



About two years ago, hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria swept through the United States and Caribbean, causing widespread damage and interrupting the lives of millions of our neighbors. Today we join in prayer for those who are still on the long road to recovery, and we reflect upon God's faithfulness along the journey.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of this church, Lutheran Disaster Response has been able to support those whose lives were harmed by these catastrophic storms. Together, supporters donated nearly \$15 million in response, demonstrating Christ's love to hurricane survivors through practical support. The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Funding has shared a downloadable report with some highlights of what the generous gifts have allowed us to do so far. You can find it by Mission Memo 468

[clicking here.](#) There's more to be done. Lutheran Disaster Response will be there until the work is finished; a full recovery is expected to take three to five years or more. [Our continuing gifts help make this response and others like it possible.](#)

## **"Strive for justice and peace"**

In 1994 the ELCA Church Council adopted the social message "[Community Violence](#)" which speaks to the complex and pervasive nature of violence and the church's call to address its root causes. Now, 25 years later, this social message is still all too relevant. This church acknowledges that it's made up of people who have been victims of violence, who have perpetrated violence and who work to protect against it. While this presents challenges that are as complex as the matter of violence itself, the church is guided by the healing power found in relationship together and in Christ to respond to its roles as peacemakers and justice-seekers. You can [read the article](#) from the August issue of "Living Lutheran."

In addition there is a worship resource, which accompanies "[A 60-Day Journey Toward Justice in a Culture of Gun Violence.](#)" can be used to continue the journey of striving for justice and peace. Click to [DOWNLOAD](#) the GUN VIOLENCE LITANY

## **President of the Lutheran World Federation addresses the ELCA**

*"This is not a time to be derailed from the message that is entrusted to us, but to draw from it and to witness to it in the midst of our broken world."*

— Panti Filibus Musa

At the recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Panti Filibus Musa — archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria and president of the Lutheran World Federation — issued a call for the ELCA to embrace its local and global witness, especially in times of fragmentation. "Continue singing the powerful melody of God's liberating presence in this world, which sets us free to serve, love, reconcile and do so much more," Musa said. [Read about his address here.](#) Most notably, the ELCA declared itself a sanctuary denomination at Churchwide Assembly — the first North American denomination to do so. The Lutheran World Federation [welcomed the decision](#), calling it a "visionary and prophetic stand." Learn more about what becoming a sanctuary denomination means at [ELCA.org/sanctuarychurch](http://ELCA.org/sanctuarychurch). [Click here](#) to read more.



## **Chicken and mushrooms bring new meaning for a family**

Before raising chicken, both Sour and Ya considered going to neighboring Thailand to work. This would have meant leaving their children behind in the care of the grandparents. But in taking on this chicken project, everything changed, everyone stayed together. And there is a steady income.



"This has changed our lives. We can send some pocket money with our children when they go to school," she says about her two older children, age 16 and 14. "And all this certainly has made it possible for me not to go out to work somewhere. I can be my own boss, the owner of my life," and all this allows Ya to be at home with their two year-old.

Even if the couple would not have gone to Thailand, there are certain job opportunities within Cambodia. One of the largest job

opportunities is in the garment-making business. But working in a garment factory often requires long commutes, long hours, and - despite improvements in working conditions and wages under the law - hard working conditions.

It's with this that the [Lutheran Church in Cambodia](#), supported by a grant from [ELCA World Hunger](#), developed this project to give families self-sustenance in their lives in holistic ways.

In their own lives, Sour and Ya wake up at 6 am every day. Their first order of business is to go to the market to sell mushrooms, which is another project in which they are engaged. The mushroom side of the project involves growing mushrooms out of mulch filled bags embedded with spores. They harvest some 8-10 kg of mushrooms a day, with each kilogram fetching \$2. Each mulch bag produces mushrooms every day over a period of three months. So this is a steady source of income.

After the market, Sour and Ya return home to feed the chicken. This feeding happens twice a day, the other time at 4 pm.

They have hundreds of chicken now, having started 3 years ago with 7 hens and one rooster. Many of the hens are used as egg-layers, and these eggs are incubated for hatching, a process that takes 21 days. Sour and Ya actually have two large incubators and can handle 1,000 eggs at a time. The hatched chicks then spend a couple weeks in cages before being sold at market. Chicks fetch \$1 each, which brings in \$700-1000 per month gross, and a net income of \$300/month.

Some chicks are raised to be further egg-laying hens, while others are raised for meat consumption. These chicken can fetch \$5/kg as these are sought-after as organically raised hens.

"It's been hard convincing villagers to raise chicken," said Pastor Touch Sreyleak of Krous Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia. "It's a lot of work, particularly at the beginning. Many people want a quick income without working. But with the success of this family, the project is being started with other families."

Sour has come to say that if you have an income and the family can stay together, there would be happiness in the family. "I feel by staying together we could build our relationship. And certainly, I see God working in all this by keeping the family together."

Thank you for your contributions to ELCA World Hunger, which opens up the power of God in support of families and sustainable income.



## "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday - Some Ideas !!!



Are you looking for ways to share the news of what we as a church are doing in the world with members of your congregation? You can find videos that bring the "Stories of Faith in Action" to life at

<https://elca.org/Resources/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action#Videos> .

The first one in the list, "Where does your offering go?" provides a good overview of how our offerings

are used. The others tell stories of specific missions.

You can find other resources at: <https://elca.org/Resources/GWOH-Sunday>

### Coming Events:

| Date               | Event/Activity  | Resources   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Sept 8, 2019       | "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday<br>At as many locations as possible   | For information and resources see <a href="https://elca.org/dayofservice">https://elca.org/dayofservice</a>   |
| Sept 14, 2019      | Mission Interpreter Gathering and Orientation, coffee at 8:45 am, meeting at 9:00 am. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 119 W. Wise Road, Schaumburg, | e-mail <a href="mailto:keolson@prodigy.net">keolson@prodigy.net</a> for more information and to register  |
| Sept 19, 2019      | Concordia Place - A Taste for All Venue West, 221 N Paulina St Chicago, IL  | For more information visit <a href="https://www.concordiaplace.org/atasteforall/">https://www.concordiaplace.org/atasteforall/</a>                    |
| Oct. 12, 2019      | LSSI Amicus Certus Celebration Union League Club  | For more information visit <a href="http://www.LSSI.org">www.LSSI.org</a> or contact <a href="mailto:Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org">Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org</a> |
| Oct 19, 2019       | Installation of Rev. Yehiel Curry as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago,  | For more information visit <a href="http://www.mtselca.org/">http://www.mtselca.org/</a>  |
| August 8-13, 2022. | 2022 Churchwide Assembly Columbus, OH at the Greater Columbus Convention Center   | For more information check <a href="http://www.elca.org">www.elca.org</a>   |



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**A TASTE FOR ALL      THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19      6:00—9:00 PM**

Our signature fall fundraiser, *A Taste for All*, will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at Venue West in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood. We will honor Bishop Wayne Miller and Pamela Miller for their outstanding support of Concordia Place, and social justice across metropolitan Chicago. The event will feature delicious foods from a variety of Chicago's neighborhoods, live music, a silent auction, and open bar. *A Taste for All* is the premier fundraising event to support our mission to create involved communities where all our neighbors can gather, learn and grow. Concordia Place believes all people deserve to reach their full potential. Founded in 1981 as a small after-school program, today our multi-generational programs positively impact nearly 1,000 young children, teens, and seniors each year.

To learn more visit: [www.concordiaplace.org/ATASTEFORALL](http://www.concordiaplace.org/ATASTEFORALL). For sponsorship opportunities and tickets, please contact Anne Wilson, Director of Advancement, at [awilson@concordiaplace.org](mailto:awilson@concordiaplace.org) or 773.463/1600 ext. 421.

## **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

### **38th Annual Amicus Certus Celebration: The Art of Generosity Saturday, October 12, 2019**

Union League Club of Chicago

Please join us as we honor Eric and Jodie Draut with the "True Friend" Award. The Drauts have demonstrated their generosity through many hours of devoted volunteer time and philanthropy to LSSI and other Lutheran organizations. The keynote speaker is award winning television journalist Elizabeth Vargas, who wrote the book *Between Breaths: A Memoir of Panic and Addiction*, which details her powerful story of healing and recovery. The evening includes dinner and dancing. Proceeds from the event benefit Behavioral Health Programs at LSSI, including Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Services.

Please RSVP by **September 27, 2019**. Corporate sponsorships are available. For more information, contact Mariah Heinz at **847.635.4656** or [Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org](mailto:Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org)