



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #470

September 3, 2019

13th Sunday after Pentecost (September 8, 2019)



Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

Readings

- [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#) - *Walk in the way of life and hold fast to God*
- [Psalm 1](#) - *They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)*
- [Philemon 1-21](#) - *Paul says: Receive Onesimus as a coworker*
- [Luke 14:25-33](#) - *Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross*

Freed—From and For

Freedom flows through all the readings this day. Moses reminds the people of Israel they have the freedom to choose between life and prosperity or death and adversity. Ironically, this freedom to choose life comes through the freedom to choose obedience to the commands of God. In other words, Moses tells the people, they are free to choose bondage to God and life or bondage to sin and death. Either way they will be bound to something. In the second reading Paul reminds Philemon that he—Paul—is not free but is a "prisoner of Christ Jesus." This is Paul's linguistic wordplay to help convince Philemon to free his slave Onesimus. Paul reminds Philemon that he has the freedom to hold on to his slave Onesimus and the freedom to grant Onesimus freedom as his brother in Christ. In the gospel Jesus speaks a challenging word, which resonates in ways that might make modern people a tad uncomfortable. You might phrase it: Do you own your stuff or does your stuff own you? Jesus seems to suggest that our stuff, our possessions, could make it difficult to follow faithfully. It is easy to dismiss this suggestion with a wave of the hand, "Oh, that certainly is not me"—until you start to consider just how much stuff is stored up in our homes and attics and garages (some of the latter with no room for cars). In Christ, freedom comes from letting go. Freedom comes through giving away and trusting Jesus. In Christ we are free people. Free to choose life, free to choose faithfulness, and

free to open our arms wide and receive the free grace of God. This is the God who chooses to never stop loving us.

AMMPARO—The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. AMMPARO refers to the ELCA's strategy for "Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities." AMMPARO was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.



The ELCA's director for AMMPARO, Mary Campbell, will be at Prince of Peace Lutheran, 930 W. Higgins Rd in Schaumburg, on Monday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. Come to learn how we can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families! www.princeofpeace.net

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.

RESPONDING to DORIAN

Lutheran Disaster Response, in partnership with affiliates and synods, stands ready to assist impacted communities from the Bahamas to Virginia.

Our prayers today are with Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas and other impacted communities.

Click the link to be a part of the response. <http://ow.ly/mTHZ50vVBR3>



The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Perspective

The Working Group on the Middle East invites you to two opportunities to hear the Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac's presentation "The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Perspective" He will introduce the Palestinian Christian community that lives behind the wall, life under occupation and Palestinian theology in response to Western Christian approaches to Israel and the land. The first presentation will be on Tuesday, September 24 at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W Wilson, in Chicago and the second on Wednesday, September 25, at Grace Lutheran Church in LaGrange. Both events will start at 7:00 PM.

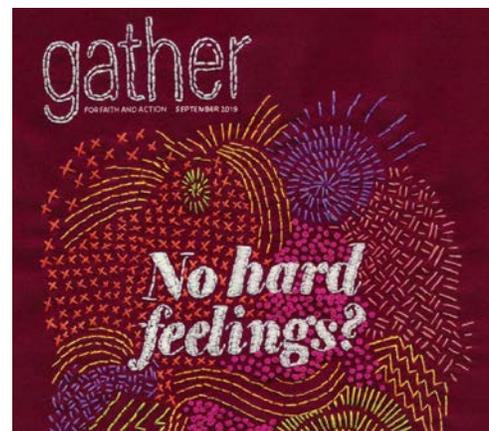
Munther Isaac is a Palestinian Christian pastor and theologian. He now pastors the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. He is also the academic dean of Bethlehem Bible College and is the director of the highly acclaimed and influential Christ at the Checkpoint conferences. Munther is passionate about issues related to Palestinian Christians and peacemaking. He speaks locally and internationally, He has published numerous articles on issues related to the theology of the land, Palestinian Christians and Palestinian theology, holistic mission and reconciliation. He is the author of "From Land to Lands, from Eden to the Renewed Earth. A Christ-Centered Biblical Theology of the Promised Land", "An Introduction to Palestinian Theology" (in Arabic), and a commentary on the book of Daniel (in Arabic). He is also involved in many reconciliation and interfaith forums.

Munther originally studied civil engineering in Birzeit University in Palestine. He then obtained a Master In Biblical Studies from Westminster Theological Seminary and then a PhD from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. Munther is married to Rudaina - an architect and together they have two boys Karam (6) and Zaid (4)

The language of our hearts

Language is perhaps one of the many things we adults take for granted. When we want something, or when we are frustrated or irritated, we can say so. Often, as adults, we've convinced ourselves that we shouldn't express our anger, grief or lament, but what is the gift of language if not a means to share the totality of what we feel? Read the column in [Gather magazine](#) where you will learn more about the fall Bible study, "No hard feelings."

(Thanks to the Women of the ELCA for this)



OF COMMUNITY AND COURAGE: RESPONDING TO THE PUBLIC CHARGE RULE AS A SANCTUARY CHURCH

Even as voting members returned from the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and the action declaring the ELCA a sanctuary denomination, the United States Department of Homeland Security announced changes to the “public charge” rule.



Set to take effect October 15, 2019, a new rule could mean denial of visas or permanent residence for immigrants receiving public support to pay for food, housing or health care. This will likely decrease participation in programs such as SNAP and may lead food-insecure families to rely more heavily on community resources, such as food pantries, to help meet their needs.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the situation and what we might do.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: DATA & MAPPING

Data can help you and others know more about the challenges our neighbors face — and the assets that are available in a community.

This new guide provides suggestions for finding data related to several areas that impact food security: housing, employment and food access. Statistics, numbers and other data can help communicate the impact of your ministry, encourage supporters and identify possible areas for growth or change.



“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday – Some Ideas !!!



A reminder, 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>

As you are joining in the action, I hope you take pictures. Please feel free to share them on our Mission Interpreter [Facebook page](#) as well as yours so we can share in the joy of what is being done.

Coming Events:

Date	Event/Activity	Resources
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 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 keolson@prodigy.net 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 https://www.concordiaplace.org/atasteforall/
Oct. 12, 2019	LSSI Amicus Certus Celebration Union League Club	For more information visit www.LSSI.org or contact Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org
Oct 19, 2019	Installation of Rev. Yehiel Curry as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago,	For more information visit http://www.mtselca.org/
August 8-13, 2022.	2022 Churchwide Assembly Columbus, OH at the Greater Columbus Convention Center	For more information check www.elca.org



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. For sponsorship opportunities and tickets, please contact Anne Wilson, Director of Advancement, at 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