



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #471

September 10, 2019

14th Sunday after Pentecost (September 15, 2019)



The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As Paul's first letter to Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Readings

- [Exodus 32:7-14](#) - *Moses begs the Lord to turn from anger against the Hebrews*
- [Psalm 51:1-10](#) - *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*
- [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#) - *Christ Jesus came for sinners*
- [Luke 15:1-10](#) - *Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners*

Lost and Found

Today's readings give witness that God has a heart for losers. God reconciles with the idol-worshipping people of Israel. The risen Lord calls the violent, blasphemous persecutor, Paul. The faithful shepherd rescues the wandering sheep and carries it home. The woman who lost one of her ten silver coins searches for it until she finds it. Similarly, God doesn't abandon people even when people abandon God. The cross and resurrection testify to God's faithfulness in that regard. God rescues strays one by one, making the first move to find the lost and create new hearts in them. When (in the first reading) Moses holds God to promises already made in the covenant, the breathtaking picture emerges of a God so committed to relationship that God is influenced—changed—by what people need and ask. This faithfulness of God, shared with overflowing grace in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus, is patient, forgiving, energetic, and ready to celebrate. Take the bread and cup—Jesus hosts the worshiping assembly again this week to welcome sinners and eat with them! Suddenly, "sinner" is no longer the best name for us. Try "guest," "graced," "gifted," "loved," and "empowered." Then it's time to follow Jesus out of the gathered assembly and

into the world as apprentice sleuths for missing persons, bent on finding the lost and the broken and giving them an invitation to come home.

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



Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas with devastating force. The storm left more than 70,000 people homeless and nearly 50 people reported dead. The number is expected to grow as search and rescue efforts continue. Pastor Cliff Lewis conducted a rapid assessment and reported that Our Saviours Lutheran Church members were mostly unharmed, though the loss of family members was reported.

The storm continued on to strike the North Carolina coast, bringing high winds, dangerous storm surge and tornadoes. Three people have been reported dead and thousands of homes damaged or destroyed. Hurricane Dorian moved on to Canada before dissipating on September 10th. Affiliates, synods and congregations in Georgia, Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported that they came through Hurricane Dorian relatively unscathed.

Lutheran Disaster Response, in partnership with the Florida-Bahamas Synod, North Carolina Synod, Lutheran Services Carolinas and other partners, is responding to this disaster. In the Bahamas, Lutheran Disaster Response has committed an initial \$15,000 for water, food and non-food items. Staff will travel to do further assessment of needs on the Islands. In North Carolina, Lutheran Services Carolinas, and the North Carolina Synod are recruiting volunteers to help with debris removal and other tasks. LDR Georgia affiliate, Inspiritus has deployed a team to assist. We are ready to respond and stand by our neighbors as they recover from this hurricane and any others the 2019 season may bring. What we can do:

Pray - Please pray for the communities that have been affected by Hurricane Dorian. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. You can find additional resources for worship [here](#).

Give - We invite you to stand by all the communities impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Your gifts to Hurricane Relief ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those affected by this disaster for years to come.

Connect - To learn more and stay connected to the latest events and our response to this and other disasters: Visit the Lutheran Disaster website at www.LDR.org.

Announcing new grants for Accessibility Reinvestment Grants

We celebrate that at Churchwide Assembly 2019 there was overwhelming support by ELCA voting members offering guidance and solidarity for the future direction of the denomination.

Authentic diversity and being a sanctuary body demonstrate our care and concern for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. While we are saddened that individual racism exists, we are acknowledging that ignoring the past is painful and that our collective sin can do substantial harm in systemic ways that are uncalled for. I'm thankful for our practice of corporate confession and believe the entire church will benefit.



In response, ELCA Disability Ministries introduces a new grant opportunity for ELCA congregations in diverse and divested communities for an Accessibility Reinvestment Grant. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 15, 2019, at <https://elca.fluxx.io> for up to \$25,000 for small-scale property and large-impact programmatic plans. Questions can be directed to Disability.Ministry@elca.org.

LWF grain supports farmers in drought and preserves diversity in Ethiopia

(LWI) - "Lutheran' changed my life," says Amare Mulaw. The Ethiopian farmer is not referring to the Christian denomination, at least not directly. He speaks about the benefits of a new crop variety introduced by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The new crop is part of a development project which supports small-scale farmers in Amhara province who are dealing deal with climate change.



Mulaw's home town Erffa is a kebele (community) located 37 km southwest of Lalibela town, in Lasta Woreda (district), Amhara Regional State. The region is famous for its

rock-hewn churches, which are UNESCO world heritage. For farmers like Mulaw however, the wealth lies in the soil. They spend their lives hoping for rain and a good harvest.

LWF support during the drought of 2016

In the past years however rain has not come often enough, sometimes not at all. LWF started working in Mulaw's community in 2016, as a response to the El Niño-induced drought. The response had various components: natural resource conservation activities through cash-for-work helped to prevent erosion while providing financial aid to the farmers, whose harvest had failed. The most vulnerable were supported with direct cash payments as well as seed distribution including corn, lentils and teff, a local grain which is very popular and used to make injera-bread. [Click here](#) to read more.

Coming Events:

Date	Event/Activity	Resources
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/
Sept 24, 2019 7PM	"The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Perspective", Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W Wilson, in Chicago	For more information visit: http://www.mtselca.org/what/ministry/middle_east/
Sept 25, 2019 7PM	"The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Perspective", Grace Lutheran Church in LaGrange	For more information visit: http://www.mtselca.org/what/ministry/middle_east/
Oct 5, 2019	Prince of Peace "Cruisin' Car Show" in support of the food pantry. Prince of Peace 930 W Higgins Rd, Schaumburg	Click here , call 847-885-7010 or email: church@princeofpeace.net for more information
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