



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #442

November 13, 2018

26th Sunday after Pentecost (November 18, 2018)



November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. So the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water,

trusting the one who has promised. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

Readings

- [Daniel 12:1-3](#) - *The deliverance of God's people at the end*
- [Psalm 16](#) - *My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)*
- [Hebrews 10:11-14 \[15-18\] 19-25](#) - *The way to God opened through Christ's death*
- [Mark 13:1-8](#) - *The end and the coming of the Son*

Real Strength in Community of Faith

What makes something strong? Is steel strong because of its ability to withstand stress from many directions? Is wood strong because of its ability to absorb impact while remaining intact? Is the material of a spider's web strong because of its tensile strength-to-weight ratio? Things are strong for many reasons. The temple in Jerusalem was thought to be stronger and more permanent than anything, yet Jesus says in Mark, "Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down" (Mark 13:2). Jesus shows hearers that true strength is not built upon the oppression of widows (Mark 12:41-44).

Many of the world's most prized structures are built on the shoulders of the poor and oppressed. How many homes in poorer areas of cities have been destroyed by the need for a new or wider highway? How many workers living in poverty died

building the Golden Gate or Brooklyn Bridges, the Hoover Dam or the Empire State Building? In order for human beings to build structures of great strength, they must rely on sacrifice and compromise. Can any human standard of strength be achieved without making something else weak?

Real strength, however, is not shown in things built by human hands. Real strength is found in the hands themselves. True strength is shown in workers reporting to work day after day in impossible conditions because it's the only way to feed their family. It is shown by an entire community of God's people linking their trembling hands as they share the "confession of our hope without wavering" (Heb. 10:23). The new, true temple, Jesus' faithful strength, succumbs in weakness to human-made nails. While the nails lie rusting away, the wounded hands and body rise again to break bread with all on the journey down the path of life.

California Wildfire Update

As of Tuesday, several wildfires are raging across California. Already nearly 50 people have died and more than 200 are missing, while hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes under evacuation

orders. Lutheran Disaster Response urges us [to give today to help people whose lives have been impacted by the wildfires in California. The road to recovery will be long, but we have an opportunity to accompany survivors and let them know they are not alone.](#)



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Through our partners in California, Lutheran Disaster Response has already begun addressing immediate needs, including providing food and other necessities to survivors. They are also preparing to address long-term needs which might include rebuilding of structures and emotional and spiritual care. The need will be great.

Stay connected to the latest events and our response to this and other disasters through the Lutheran Disaster Response [Facebook](#) page. You can also check out the [Lutheran Disaster Response blog](#) to learn more about our response: Join us in prayer and use this [bulletin insert](#) in your congregation to help spread the word. [Please give now.](#)

VENEZUELAN REFUGEES IN PERÚ

The worsening socio-economic and political situation in Venezuela continues to cause largescale displacement of the local population. Recently, Perú has become one of the destinations for Venezuelans fleeing poverty, political oppression and violence in their country. According to the National Migration Institute, the number of Venezuelans in Peru more than tripled - going from 106,000 in December 2017 to 353,000 in the first half of 2018. Despite the Peruvian government being more open to Venezuelans than other countries in the region, Venezuelan refugees still face a series of challenges and obstacles after their arrival. Lutheran Disaster Response, through Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Iglesia Luterana del Perú (The Lutheran Church of Perú or ILP), is supporting local humanitarian efforts to assist and advocate for Venezuelans in Perú. These efforts will include activities such as:

- 2,500 people receiving humanitarian assistance in four refugee reception centers.
- 7,500 refugees receiving counseling, legal support and an orientation about their rights, in person or through a virtual platform
- Identifying and providing the immediate needs of migrants currently receiving services at the congregations.
- Supporting spaces of internal reflection at the congregational level.
- Developing a campaign against xenophobia and the virtual information platform.
- Conducting research on the dimensions, characteristics, dynamics and impacts of
- Venezuelan immigration to Peru and sharing results.

Learn more at the [Lutheran Disaster Response blog](#) and [Facebook page](#).

DARE TO LOVE MORE

[DLM Food and Resources](#) at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, Ohio, is a place where families find nourishing food, warm clothes and an equally warm welcome.

"At first glance, it's not much different from any well-run, client-choice food pantry," said Marla Wood Kay, a deacon and director of congregational ministries at Holy Trinity. But, Wood Kay said, "the idea for this ministry was born in a hospice room," where Holy Trinity member Debra Manteghi was dying of cancer.



For years, Manteghi had advocated for families. She developed Project RISE (Realizing Individual Strength through Education), a federally funded program connecting Akron Public Schools, shelters and community organizations to support students who are homeless. After her death, need and opportunity converged. "I had a desire to continue Debra's ministry," Wood Kay said. "Project RISE needed a food pantry to direct their families to." In June 2017, Holy Trinity approved the food pantry ministry. Donations in Manteghi's honor and a church endowment supported it for a planned fall opening. When it was time to name the new ministry, Manteghi's son Amir and his fiancée, Monica Band, named it "DLM," which stands for "Dare to Love More" and also "Debra Lynn Manteghi." Since opening to guests on Oct. 14, 2017, DLM has grown, serving 75 families—300 people—on average per month. Wood Kay said DLM picks up 1,500 to 3,500 pounds of food three times per month and is a member of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, which provides food and other essential items to area hunger ministries. *This important work is supported in part by a Domestic Hunger Grant from ELCA World Hunger.*

[Click here for more.](#)

NEW VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDES



Through ELCA World Hunger we support ministries around the world and here in the United States that are committed to ending hunger and poverty for good. Nothing captures the stories of God's work in these communities quite like videos where viewers can hear directly from the participants and leaders. Videos are also great tools for

education forums, temple talks or Sunday school. Two new video discussion guides help you do just that! The new guides feature "[Robyn's story](#)" from Massachusetts and "[Kanchan's story](#)" from India.

Coming Events:

Date	Event/Activity	Resources
June 7 and 8, 2019	2019 MC Synod Assembly, Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Dr., Tinley Park, IL	For more information visit http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/
Aug 5-10, 2019	ELCA Churchwide Assembly, at the Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee, Wisc.	For more information visit https://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly