



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #452

March 12, 2019

Second Sunday in Lent (March 17, 2019)



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Readings

- [Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18](#) - *The covenant with Abram and his descendants*
- [Psalm 27](#) - *In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)*
- [Philippians 3:17--4:1](#) - *Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior*
- [Luke 13:31-35](#) - *I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood*

Purpose and Perseverance

This week's gospel text from Luke presents another temptation for Jesus. The Pharisees approach Jesus with a warning about his safety, telling him to "get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you" (Luke 13:31). Not only do the Pharisees want Jesus to leave, but one can assume they also want Jesus to stop doing what he was doing: speaking against the Pharisees, teaching about God, and healing on the sabbath. We know the Pharisees are "very hostile" (Luke 11:53) toward Jesus, so we can conclude that their warning is not a genuine expression of concern but rather an attempt to stop his mission and ministry.

However, Jesus will not be distracted or turned away from his purpose, even if that includes moving toward his own death in Jerusalem. In Jesus' ability to fulfill his purpose, even in the midst of opposition, we find inspiration as we seek to live our lives in concert with God's purposes. As Christians, Jesus' purpose is our purpose. The church, the body of Christ, doesn't exist for itself. Rather, the

church exists to be a partner with God in God's mission to love, bless, and reconcile the world.

[Proposed deep cuts do not reflect common good](#)

Posted on March 12, 2019 by ELCA Advocacy

National priorities reflected in the proposed budget by President Trump would impair many programs that reflect our shared values. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposed by President Trump would increase hunger and poverty in our nation and around the world, exacerbating root causes of poverty and heightening migration tensions.

If enacted, the budget would make deep cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Child Nutrition Programs (cut \$220 billion from SNAP and \$1.7 billion from Child Nutrition Programs), expand the ranks of the uninsured (cut \$1.1 trillion from Medicaid), end or impair effective global health and antipoverty programs, and end programs that care for creation and combat climate change (make a 30% cut to the Environmental Protection Agency budget and eliminate essential global climate research funding). At a time when apprehensions at the southern border are at a historic low, maximized funding of a physical barrier at that border is not an effective solution to address border security.

The federal budget reflects our national priorities and promotes the collective common good. We urge Congress to reject this extreme vision for our nation and support a budget that reflects our shared values, as in the bipartisan budget enacted for 2019.

Visit the [Advocacy Homepage](#) to learn more about ways to be involved.



Synod Assembly Opportunity to Share Your Story

Once again we will have the opportunity to provide Mission Moments at the Synod Assembly. If you have a special story of work that your congregation is doing that you would like to share, please let me know. Time is a bit more limited this year due to the election of our next Bishop during the meeting, but we will have six spots available. Please let me know ASAP so we can include you on our list.

Austrian Pastor Tendis among victims of Ethiopian Airlines crash



The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has expressed sincere condolences to the family of Rev. Norman Tendis of the [Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria](#), who was among the victims of the fatal Ethiopian Airlines that crashed on Sunday, 10 March.

"On behalf of the LWF, my heart goes out to the family of Pastor

Tendis, the entire church in which he ministered, as you all seek solace and guidance from God in these difficult times," LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge said in a condolence letter to the LWF member church today.

Ethiopian authorities have confirmed that all the 157 people on board perished following the crash that occurred shortly after takeoff from Bole International Airport in the capital Addis Ababa on Sunday morning en route to Nairobi.

The Austrian pastor was a consultant for the Economy of Life programme of the [World Council of Churches](#) (WCC), and was on his way to a [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP) conference starting in Nairobi, Kenya, this week. He was due to make a presentation on the church's vision and ecological engagement locally and active involvement in the issue of climate justice. "We thank Pastor Tendis for his visionary role and the many efforts he has initiated in the church and beyond," Junge wrote to the head of the church, Bishop Dr Michael Bünker.

Sheep, a savings account and doughnuts

It's a sunny Thursday afternoon in Berni-N'Konni, Niger. Aminatou Salifou collects a small amount of money from each of her neighbors at their weekly savings and loan group meeting. She makes her financial contribution, then they discuss the week's business, which includes new loan requests. After the meeting, Aminatou returns to her small business at the nearby street market, where she sells fresh, delicious doughnuts. The delectable treats are a



favorite in Niger, just like in the U.S. It's a new venture for 53-year-old Aminatou, and one she expects to grow, thanks in large part to her saving group and sheep. Your generosity provided Aminatou with the initial capital she needed to purchase, care for and breed sheep — valued for their wool, milk and meat. She quickly grew a small herd and sold two sheep, earning a profit of nearly \$100.

But that's not what she used to start her doughnut business ... not exactly. Aminatou used the profit to purchase another ewe and contributed the rest to the savings and loan group. The group consists wholly of women from the community. They pool their contributions in a shared savings account to support each other when they need a loan for medical care, school fees or — in Aminatou's case — a business investment.

Aminatou's loan allowed her to launch her doughnut business without having to borrow money from a high-interest money lender. Meanwhile, she continues to grow her herd of sheep, pay back her loan and contribute to the group savings. With two income streams — in addition to the income she may earn from selling crops — Aminatou is more financially secure than ever before.

Get great stories of the church at work from the [Lutheran World Relief e-news](#)

Coming Events:

Date	Event/Activity	Resources
April 27, 2019	LSSI Spring Fling 2019 - Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca	For more information, contact Mariah Heinz 847.635.4656 or Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org or visit https://www.lssi.org/
May 9, 2019	Lutheran Day 2019 - Illinois State Capitol, Springfield	For more information contact Joy Medrano 847.635.4653 or Joy.Medrano@lssi.org or visit https://www.lssi.org/
May 12, 2019	Good Shepherd Sunday 2019, All congregations statewide	visit https://www.lssi.org/
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
Sept 8, 2019	"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday At as many locations as possible	For information and resources see https://elca.org/dayofservice