



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #454

April 30, 2019

Third Sunday of Easter (May 5, 2019)



The disciples make a big splash and breakfast with the risen Jesus in the gospel. Wading in the water (remembering our baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating the holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us, with Peter, again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

Readings

- [Acts 9:1-6 \[7-20\]](#) - *Paul's conversion, baptism, and preaching*
- [Psalm 30](#) - *You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11)*
- [Revelation 5:11-14](#) - *The song of the living creatures to the Lamb*
- [John 21:1-19](#) - *Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias*

Do You Love Me? Follow Me

When we encounter Jesus, we are changed and will never be the same. Jesus can be revealed in a blinding light on the road, in an abundance of fish, in breakfast on the beach. God uses all sorts of surprising things—bread, wine, water, words of forgiveness—to convert us. Like baptism, this conversion is both a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing event and a daily process—a change that comes again and again, like Jesus' question to Peter: "Do you love me?" Again and again, Jesus calls us to follow him. For Saul, the journey doesn't end with the blinding light on the road. For Peter, the journey doesn't end with breakfast on the beach. Conversion sets each of them, and each of us, on a path that continues for the rest of our life on earth—and leads into life eternal.

LWF calls for protection of places of worship

(LWI) - The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) continues to express the communion's solidarity with all those affected by the Easter Sunday attacks targeting Christian places of worship and hotels in Sri Lanka.

"The LWF is deeply disturbed by the despicable acts of violence, in which more than 350 people have been killed and hundreds more have been injured," LWF President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa and General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge said in a joint statement.

"This is yet another act of violence that shows an appalling contempt for human life. Sadly, it also adds to the increasing attacks targeting people as they gather in their places of worship," the LWF leaders say.

[\(Click here for more\)](#)

A statement from ELCA presiding bishop

On Saturday, the last day of Passover, another shooting occurred at a synagogue — this time, Chabad of Poway, in California. The living had gathered to offer prayers to honor the dead and to close the Jewish festival of God's liberating promise.

Once again, worship was interrupted by deadly violence.

We stand against this latest public act of anti-Semitism and domestic terrorism, and with the Jewish community. Together, with our ecumenical and inter-religious partners, we will continue to "oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us" ("Declaration of ELCA to Jewish Community," 1994).

We grieve with the community of Poway, with the victims and their families, and with all those who are wounded in mind, body and spirit by this latest act of violence committed in a sacred space.

We continue to grieve the shooting six months ago at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; the mosque shootings six weeks ago in Christchurch, New Zealand; the arson one month ago of three historic Black churches in Louisiana; and the church bombings on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka.

We find ourselves, like the psalmist, crying out to God that "the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary" (Psalm 74:3b). We know that these incidents, together with others, are not isolated. They are linked through a tangled web of religious bigotry, violence, hatred and white supremacy that is meant to divide us — from each other and from God.

Therefore, our actions to address anti-Semitism must oppose *all* deadly workings in our midst. This is hard work but also holy work. An attack on one faith community is an attack on all. As a sign of God's liberating promise, let us stand against this scourge by standing together. May it be so.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, ELCA

NOTE: We learned Tuesday evening that another shooting occurred, this at the University of North Carolina - Charlotte where two were killed and four others wounded. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those impacted in this shooting as well. We must find ways to work together to end the hate and violence in our country and the world. Lord have mercy.

Sharing the Goodness of God

The [Lutheran Church in Malaysia](#) (LCM), a companion of the ELCA, works alongside the indigenous Orang Asli people of West Malaysia. In this south-to-south partnership, Christ's love between the LCM and the Orang Asli is lived out in many ways, including worship life, education, sustainable farming, land-rights awareness and income-generating projects.



The [ELCA works with the LCM to support these important evangelism ministries](#), helping to build relationships rooted in the love of Christ so that God's goodness is shared far and wide. Give a gift of today at [ELCA.org/GlobalGive](#).

Lutherans respond in aftermath of Cyclone Idai



Cyclone Idai made landfall in Mozambique on March 14, bringing catastrophic winds, rain and flooding. Over 1,000 people have been killed across Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Hundreds of thousands of others are now homeless and at risk of waterborne

illnesses and malnutrition. [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) is working with our global companions and partners in the region to respond to those in need. Alongside the [Lutheran World Federation](#), [ACT Alliance](#) and members of Lutheran churches in all three affected countries, we are committed to helping rebuild the lives of those who have lost so much, but [we need your help to continue this work](#). [Learn more about how we are responding as a church](#) and [please consider making a gift today](#).

Global Mission immersion trip to Tanzania and Rwanda

Join Global Mission on a trip to Tanzania and Rwanda to witness the transformative work taking place and experience the power of Lutheran evangelism beyond church walls. Immerse yourself in the hospitality and faith of our companions in Christ, witness the impact of projects funded by the ELCA and rejoice in our ongoing global partnerships. Upon returning home, we invite you to make transformative gifts to sustain and grow the ministries you witnessed firsthand. To register or for more information, please contact Rahel Mwitula Williams, director for mission funding, at Rahel.Mwitula-Williams@elca.org or 773-380-2647.

Young Adults in Global Mission Endowment Fund

In 2018 the ELCA launched an endowment fund to sustain the ministry of the [Young Adults in Global Mission](#) program. We are thrilled about this new opportunity to invest in our church's young leaders as they embark on a year of faith formation, learning and service alongside our global companions. To donate to the fund, [visit the Global Church Sponsorship donation page](#) and select "[ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission Endowment](#)" from the drop-down menu.

Coming Events:

Date	Event/Activity	Resources
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