



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #474

April 21, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter (April 26, 2020)



Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is

broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

Readings

- [Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#) - *Receiving God's promise through baptism*
- [Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19](#) - *I will call on the name of the Lord. (Ps. 116:13)*
- [1 Peter 1:17-23](#) - *Born anew through the living word of God*
- [Luke 24:13-35](#) - *Eating with the risen Christ*

Change of Heart

The people who hear Peter's testimony and preaching are cut to the heart. The writer of 1 Peter instructs believers to love deeply from the heart. The disciples who encounter the risen Christ notice afterward that their hearts were "burning" within them as Jesus reveals the scriptures and then himself to them in the breaking of the bread. Whether a call to repentance, hope, recognition, or love, people are deeply affected by encounters with the one raised from death to become followers of Jesus' way. They not only turn from their sin and doubt but literally change direction, going back from Emmaus to Jerusalem with renewed courage, faith, and hope. These heart-changing encounters with Jesus fulfill a promise from God for the whole community, from those who have lived a long life to those who are children.

The Passing of Mary Anderson

I am saddened to share the news of the passing of Mary Anderson. I just learned that she passed away Wednesday, April 1, 2020 in Fishers, Indiana. She and her husband Robert moved to Indiana a few years ago. Mary was the first Mission Interpreter Coordinator (MIC) for the Metro Chicago Synod and the originator of the Mission Memo. I've been honored to follow after her. In addition to being the MIC, Mary was a Mission Interpreter for her home congregation of Atonement in Barrington, a member of the Synod Council, an active member of the Working Group on the Middle East, the Synodical Women's Organization and much more. Her obituary highlights many of her other activities. [Click here](#) for the obituary. Our sympathy goes out to her husband Robert and her entire family.



A Great Team Effort at Trinidad Lutheran in Humboldt Park



Saturday, while observing social distancing, synod photographer, Gaby Valladolid, stopped by Trinidad Lutheran in Humboldt Park to check out the meals program.

The program, which continues to operate through the current pandemic, is a collaboration between **Grace Lutheran Church** in Mount Prospect and **Trinidad Lutheran Church** in Humboldt Park.

Saturday, masks were also donated by the **Chicago Synodical Women's Organization**, as was hand sanitizer by **Rincon Family Service** and **State Representative Delia Ramirez**.

Libby and Dan Reimann dropped off cooked food to Trinidad. Eddie Rosa Fuentes, Luis Deleon, and Jennifer De Leon helped distribute the meals to community members.

Do you need a meal? Come on by. Distribution takes place the last Saturday of the month from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. Meals are also dropped off to members with compromised immune systems.

Trinidad Lutheran Church is partnering with ELCA World Hunger to raise funds for our feeding ministry through a [Daily Bread Matching Grant](#).

Resources for Being and Doing Church in the Time of COVID-19

This has been an unsettling time around the world as we deal with the impacts of the COVID-19. It has likely disrupted all facets of our lives as we wait, wonder and pray about what may come next. Our faith communities have had to learn and try new ways of being church. While we cannot be together physically in large groups, we are finding new ways to worship together. We are fortunate that our Synod, the Churchwide organization and the Lutheran World Federation are working together to provide resources that can help us as congregations and individuals work through our new reality.

From the Metro Chicago Synod

Bishop Curry shares "Siblings in Christ, the creativity and care you have shown in this trying time has been amazing and awe-inspiring. If you are looking for just a few more resources, here are some links being shared by ELCA synods that many have found useful for work in the parish and home. Please reach out to synod staff at any time, and let's all continue to hold one another in prayer."



Recently Updated Resources

[ELCA Info Video for Churches on the Pay Check Protection Program \(4/10/2020\)](#)

[Mission Investment Fund and ELCA Federal Credit Union Info-Letter \(4/03/2020\)](#)

[Information about the Paycheck Protection Program \(4/02/2020\)](#)

[Información importante sobre el Programa de Protección de Cheques de Pago \(4/04/2020\)](#)

[An Introduction to the CARE Act and FFCRA for Churches \(3/31/2020\)](#)

[Dr. Deborah Barnett \(Chief of General Medicine at the University of Chicago and a member of Faith Lutheran in Homewood, Illinois\) explains how staying home means staying healthy.](#)

You can find [additional resources](#) on the Synod website,

From the ELCA

We can help the ministries of the ELCA by supporting our local congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund. Our donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This

includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. [The website](#) includes:

- WORSHIP RESOURCES
- CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT
- VIDEOS FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

LWF responds to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak the LWF is making information and resources available, and offering encouragement to its member churches.

This is a time to show solidarity with one another, to practice love and self-discipline, to hold back from unnecessary physical contact yet remain connected in different ways. Through that we are able to show our love and concern for those who are most vulnerable.

Where can I find reliable information?

We advise you to follow instructions from the public health structures of your countries and to follow the World Health Organization that is coordinating the global response to the outbreak. Follow its website for detailed information and advice. You can also help by sharing reliable information online to halt the spread of misinformation.

What can I do?

- Follow the advice of local and global health authorities.
- Pray for each other, particularly for the countries and churches who are currently at epicenter of the spread of the virus.

If you are able, consider donating to support the work of LWF World Service and the LWF member churches to halt the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce its impact on those who are most vulnerable. [Click here](#) for Resources

Coming Events: We look forward to the day we can again meet in person

	Event/Activity	Resources
June 5-6, 2020	Mission Moments - 33rd Annual Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Tinley Park Convention Center	For more information visit http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/
August 8-13, 2022.	2022 Churchwide Assembly Columbus, OH at the Greater Columbus Convention Center	For more information check www.elca.org