



# Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

## Mission Memo #476

May 5, 2020

### Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 10, 2020)



As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

### Readings

- [Acts 7:55-60](#) - *The martyrdom of Stephen*
- [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#) - *Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*
- [1 Peter 2:2-10](#) - *God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts*
- [John 14:1-14](#) - *Christ the way, truth, and life*

### Overview

The words of today's gospel are most often heard during a funeral service. It is a popular choice of scripture for that occasion because the words provide wonderful assurance that the one who has died in Christ has now taken up residence in their heavenly home. The gospel begins by Jesus saying that he will prepare a place for each one of us. But as the text continues, we can see that our place is not an isolated room of our own in a giant heavenly mansion. Jesus' words are less about a place than a relationship: our relationship with Jesus and God the Father. They tell us that in Jesus we know all we need to know about God, and just as we can have a relationship with another human person, we can also have a relationship with God that will one day be as real and obvious as are our relationships with one another. The hope of one day being with Christ fully and forever is as real as the works we are called to do in his name today.

This text allows us the opportunity to contemplate what is ultimately unknowable, yet is also a central part of our faith: what heaven will be like.

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## COVID-19 Causes Changes

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY** - At their most recent meeting Metro Synod Council made a decision to postpone the 2020 Synod Assembly. It will now be a one-day event to be held on Oct. 3rd, 2020. Plans are being made for an in-person/virtual gathering depending on CDC guidelines and best practices in light of Covid -19. Details will be available soon.

### **Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) -**

The Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization was planning to hold it's 2020 convention on September 26, 2020 at Zion Lutheran Church in Tinley Park. Based upon the current environment and information available concerning the Covid-19 pandemic, they have cancelled that convention. They are currently discussing plans to have a "Virtual" Convention. Revised plans will be available soon.



**Women of the ELCA**  With no Covid-19 vaccine on the horizon, Women of the ELCA's executive board voted to postpone the organization's convention and gathering until August 2021. The executive board met by video on April 25. "We are postponing not canceling," said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA.

The Eleventh Triennial Convention is being rescheduled for August 3-5, 2021, in Phoenix. And the 2020 "Just Love" Gathering is being rescheduled to August 5-8, 2021.

### **LWF leaders urge churches to confront and reject xenophobia and domestic violence exposed by Coronavirus**



(LWI) - Lutheran World Federation (LWF) leaders are highlighting the vital role that churches can play in confronting and rejecting xenophobia, violence, injustice and the inequalities that have been exposed by the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

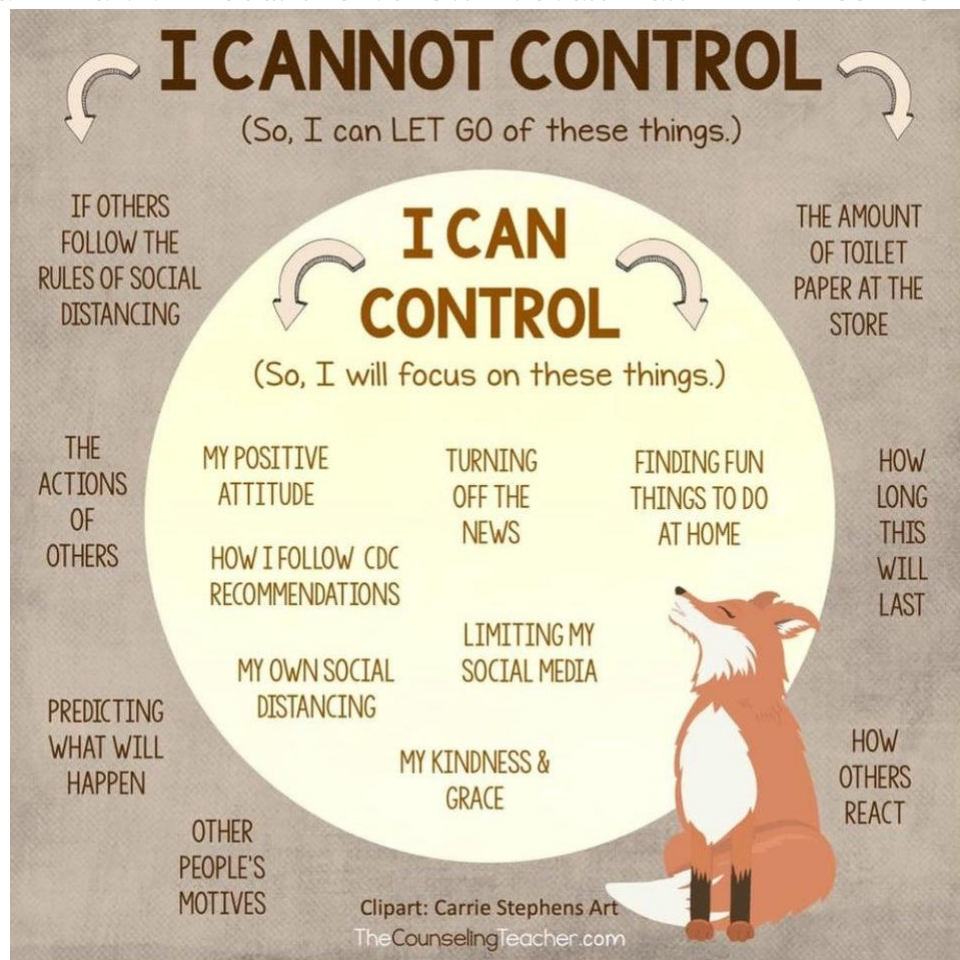
In their latest letter to member churches, LWF President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa and General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge urge congregations across the world to continue following government directives to contain the spread

of infections and they give thanks for the many inspiring examples of "steadfastness in the gospel."

At this time when many live with fear and anxiety, the Lutheran leaders say: "We are strengthened in faith after celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dead." They express gratitude to all member churches that have mobilized and found ways of continuing to pray and worship, serve their neighbors in need and advocate for justice and peace, while maintaining physical distancing.

[Click here](#) for more insights on what is being done to "Stand with those suffering" and "Reject violence against women".

## Mental Health Resources to Understand and Address COVID-19



The NE MN Synod has created a page with numerous links to articles or sites that provide helps for those: struggling with addictions, caring for children or others with anxieties, youth who are resisting physical distancing orders, grandparents seeking to maintain relationships with grandchildren from a distance, anyone struggling with COVID-19 concerns. Take a look and share appropriate links with family, friends and your congregation: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/mhccovid19.htm>

We are church together, working toward a just world where all are fed. We often think of World Hunger as working in some far off location on the other side of the world. It does that, but it is also close to home, perhaps just down the street and it could be in our congregation.. ELCA World Hunger Domestic



Hunger Grants accompany congregations and their partners throughout the United States and Caribbean as they draw on the strengths of communities to address local issues such as food security, clean water, housing, job readiness, human rights, policy change, leadership development and more. Together, these ministries are part of a comprehensive approach to breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger — for good.

[Click here](#) to learn more about ELCA World Hunger and to apply, check out the resources on the web page.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) for updates about ELCA World Hunger. *Para obtener información sobre la solicitud en español, contáctenos en [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).*

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

	Event/Activity	Resources
Postponed to Oct.3	Mission Moments - 33rd Annual Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Tinley Park Convention Center	For more information visit <a href="http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/">http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/</a>
August 8-13, 2022.	2022 Churchwide Assembly Columbus,OH at the Greater Columbus Convention Center	For more information check <a href="http://www.elca.org">www.elca.org</a>

If you have stories of things your congregation is doing to help address our current challenges please send them to me ( [mic@mtselca.org](mailto:mic@mtselca.org) ) and we can share them through future issues of the Memo and on our Facebook page.