



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #497

September 30, 2020

18th Sunday after Pentecost (October 5, 2020)



In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

Readings

- [Isaiah 5:1-7](#) - *The song of the vineyard*
- [Psalm 80:7-15](#) - *Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*
- [Philippians 3:4b-14](#) - *Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ*
- [Matthew 21:33-46](#) - *The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

Jesus, Cornerstone of Our Faith

God has showered humanity with gifts and blessings, but humanity continues to abuse those gifts. We have been entrusted with a creation to care for, and in our shortsightedness we abuse and pollute the earth, even bringing about the extinction of entire species. We abuse the gift of our bodies when we overindulge in food or alcohol or drugs. We have been given the ability to create so many wonderful things, and even this gift we abuse as we gather and keep as much as we can for ourselves.

This is nothing new. Even in the days of Isaiah it was clear the people turned away from God's gifts. God expected righteousness and justice. Instead the people responded with bloodshed and suffering, turning away from God.

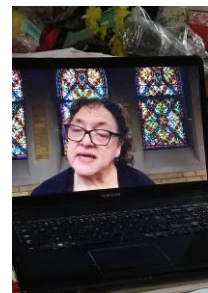
Even if you can think of all the ways you have not turned from God and all the ways you have been faithful, it does no good. As Paul reminds us in the reading from Philippians, "Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because

of Christ" (Phil. 3:7). Even all of Paul's good and faithful acts add up to nothing. For Paul, and for us, all that matters is Jesus.

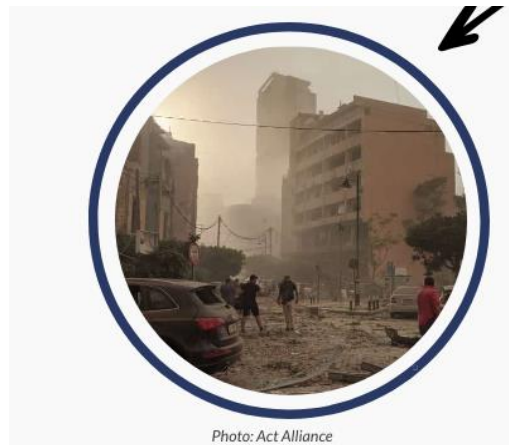
As Christ himself reminds us, he is our rock, our cornerstone. Jesus is the foundation for our faith and the foundation for our lives. Even as we turn from Jesus, even as we reject Jesus, he returns to us with love and forgiveness. This is the grace of God, the love of God coming into our world and into our lives. To our joy we discover the open arms of Jesus on the cross, bringing life into this world even where there is death; bringing hope where there is despair; and bringing resurrection to all creation.

2020 Metro Chicago SWO Convention -Women Finding Their Voices

The Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) held their first virtual Convention on Saturday September 26. In this time of distancing it provided a way to gather and share. One nice feature is that sessions were recorded and are still available for anyone who would like to see a portion of the event and the worship. Visit <https://www.metrochicagoswo.org/> and check the "Home" and "Guest Speaker" tabs.



SITUATION REPORT 2 - BEIRUT EXPLOSION



SITUATION - On August 4, an explosion from a warehouse storing explosives rocked the central district and port of Beirut, Lebanon. It left a crater with a 124 meter diameter and damaged buildings as far as twelve miles away from the blast. The explosion caused at least 190 deaths, an additional 5,000 injuries, and left 300,000 people homeless. In addition to the devastation caused by the explosion, Lebanon is facing the COVID-19 pandemic and a financial crisis.

RESPONSE - Lutheran Disaster Response is contributing to an appeal from ACT Alliance to offer relief to the people of Beirut. This support will allow the Middle East Council of Churches and DSPR-Joint Christian Committee to provide assistance for those affected by the explosion and financial crisis. Activities will include rehabilitating homes, distributing food and hygiene kits, supporting the

recovery of small business owners, and providing electronic devices and school kits for students.

HOW CAN YOU HELP -

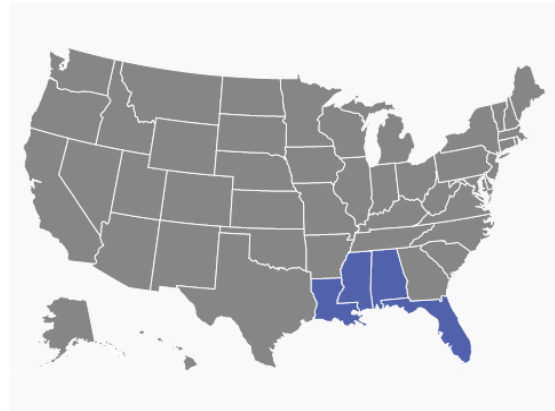
Pray: Let us pray for the people who have been affected by the explosion in Beirut. May God's healing presence give them comfort and hope in their time of need.

Contribute: to Lutheran Disaster Response (Middle East Crisis).

Connect: Share our posts on your social media sites and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

SITUATION REPORT - HURRICANE SALLY

SITUATION: Hurricane Sally made landfall as a Category 2 storm on September 16th in Alabama. Sally moved slowly, dropping more than two feet of rain in some areas and causing widespread power outages in eastern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle. As Sally weakened and moved inland, the storm continued to produce large amounts of rain and flash flooding in Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas.



Seven deaths have resulted from the storm and preliminary reports anticipate \$5 billion worth of damage.

RESPONSE: Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting the Florida-Bahamas Synod as they address community needs following the hurricane in the Florida Panhandle. The synod disaster team is distributing food, water, cleaning supplies, and other items to survivors. The synod will also provide materials to begin repairing roofs. LDR is also supporting the work of the Southeastern Synod in providing relief support to survivors in coastal areas of Alabama. The synod is collaborating with Inspiritus in tree removal and clean-up efforts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pray Let us pray for the people who have been affected by Hurricane Sally. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Contribute to Lutheran Disaster Response (Hurricane Response).

Connect Share our posts on your social media sites and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Join the STATE OF THE SYNOD VIDEO EVENT

On October 3 at 10:30 AM, we will be premiering a video event on the MCS [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. You may watch the video, commenting and participating with others as it is premiered, or you may watch it after the event at a time that is convenient for you.

The video itself will highlight stories from MCS congregations, songs submitted from various ends of the synod, and brief reports from the bishop and synod staff. Think of it as an audio and visual online celebration of God's Spirit at work in and through our communities and at the synodical level. The video will be accompanied by a full written report from the bishop.

Check out the Metro Word flipbook for more stories and events

Coming Events:

	Event/Activity	Resources
Oct. 3, 2020	Metropolitan Chicago Synod, a special virtual event @10:30 am	For more information visit http://www.mtselca.org
Oct. 10, 2020	LSSI True Friend Gala	Click to register , or contact Mariah Heinz Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org
June , 2021	Mission Moments - 33rd Annual Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, a virtual event	For more information visit http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/
August 3-5, 2021	The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, Phoenix, Ariz	For more information visit https://www.womenoftheelca.org/eleventh-triennial-convention
August 14, 2021	35 th Annual Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction	For more information visit https://www.lutherdale.org/
July 24-28, 2022	ELCA Youth Gathering - Boundless: God Beyond Measure, Minneapolis, MN	https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19
August 8- 13, 2022.	2022 Churchwide Assembly Columbus, OH at the Greater Columbus Convention Center	For more information check www.elca.org