



# Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

## Mission Memo #498

October 7, 2020

### 19th Sunday after Pentecost (October 12, 2020)



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

#### Readings

- [Isaiah 25:1-9](#) - *The feast of victory*
- [Psalm 23](#) - *You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)*
- [Philippians 4:1-9](#) - *Rejoice in the Lord always*
- [Matthew 22:1-14](#) - *The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast*

#### **Expensive Wedding. Expensive Grace.**

On a recent reality TV show entitled *Wedding Wars*, engaged couples competed for a complete wedding wardrobe. The winning couple received the bride's dress and the groom's tuxedo as well as proper attire for their entire wedding party. The estimated cash value was \$30,000. Getting married is not cheap.

In today's gospel Jesus tells a parable about a wedding invitation, a banquet, and God's grace. Jesus teaches about a king who ultimately invites all people to a wedding banquet. At first this parable seems to portray a wide open and gracious invitation to a wedding celebration. However, by the end it is hard not to feel sorry for the poor guy who gets a last-minute invitation but gets thrown out for not wearing the correct wedding duds! He apparently wasn't a winner on that era's counterpart of that reality TV show! Again, getting married is not cheap—but neither is grace.

Jesus tells this parable as a way of teaching us that receiving God's grace changes people. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer taught, God's grace is not cheap, it comes at a great cost upon the cross. Once we receive this costly grace, our lives are never

the same. This grace compels us to act and calls us to bear fruit with our lives. Ultimately we are led to share this grace with others. To continue to live in the same way after receiving this gracious invitation is not an option. So what are we to do? We simply receive the gracious invitation to the banquet and find a changing room—it's time to live a new life.

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## DAILY BREAD MATCHING GRANTS

[Para aprender más en Español, oprima aquí.](#)

*"And taking the five loaves and the two fish, [Jesus] looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to*



*the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces" (Luke 9:16-17).*

As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ELCA congregations can now raise funds for their feeding ministries through ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread Matching Grants.

Ninety-six percent of ELCA congregations participate in some form of feeding ministry, from community meals to food pantries and more — truly providing daily bread. With COVID-19 drastically impacting the reality of how we address hunger, support for these ministries is more vital than ever before. As congregations feed their neighbors, ELCA World Hunger is committed to journeying with and supporting our ministries through Daily Bread Matching Grants. [Click here](#) to learn more, but the deadlines to register and apply are getting close:

- Registration open from **September 29 - October 14.**
- Application open from **October 1-18.**
- Fundraiser open from **November 8-22.**

## LIRS Seeks Advocates for Refugees



Late Wednesday night September 30, the Trump administration released its proposal to resettle **just 15,000 individuals** in Fiscal Year 2021, which would be the **lowest admissions ceiling** since the inception of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). LIRS strongly opposes this proposal, and **CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah** spoke with multiple media outlets about this abdication of humanitarian leadership. Disheartened by this news? [Click here](#) to learn more. **You can make your voice heard.** Send an email to your legislator through the LIRS action center and tell them you strongly

condemn this low admissions goal and call for a robust refugee admissions goal of 95,000 in Fiscal Year 2021. [Contact Congress.](#)

Visit the [ELCA Action Center](#) for other issues you may want to contact Congress about including the COVID supplement bill.

## Discipleship in a democracy

### *How should Lutherans be involved in politics?*

The divisive political climate in our nation can cause tensions in our congregations.

Republicans, Democrats and independents gather under the same roof or watch the same livestream for Sunday worship, but they may

bring very different understandings of our nation's problems and how to tackle them. It's a balancing act to be faithful followers of Jesus, civically engaged citizens, and folks who love their neighbors as themselves. But our Christian faith and our Lutheran tradition give us some tools to manage it. It is discussed in "Discipleship in a democracy," which appears in Living Lutheran's October 2020 issue. You can [download a study guide](#) for the article. The free pdf includes six pages of discussion questions and a copy of the article.



The article also references the new ELCA's social message "*Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy*" that provides an in-depth look at these issues. It is worth a deep-dive exploration. Moreover, there is an excellent study guide and leader's guide to help you or your congregation dig into the topic. Find the message and guides at [www.elca.org/socialmessages](http://www.elca.org/socialmessages) .

## 2020 Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge

In an increasing polarized world, biblical citations do not always serve their primary intent of reflecting God's love. Under the theme "The Bible - Word, Not Weapon," the 2020 Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge will address how Bible verses taken out of context can become weapons that discredit others or justify cruel treatment of those portrayed as different. Presented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the annual Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge seeks to enliven the biblical engagement of the whole church by encouraging the development of faithful, innovative and effective ways to teach and learn Scripture. The event is sponsored by the seven ELCA seminaries, the Hein-Fry planning team and the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative. [Click here](#) to learn more and [register](#).

## Did you attend the STATE OF THE SYNOD VIDEO EVENT?

The STATE OF THE SYNOD VIDEO EVENT premiered on October 3 on the MCS [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. If you missed the premier, or you were inspired and want watch again, you can do it at a time that is convenient for you. It is an inspiring hour, well worth your time. The video itself highlights 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 is 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. 10, 2020	LSSI True Friend Gala	Click to <a href="#">register</a> , or contact Mariah Heinz <a href="mailto:Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org">Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org</a>
June , 2021	Mission Moments - 33rd Annual Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, a virtual event	For more information visit <a href="http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/">http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/</a>
August 3-5, 2021	The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, Phoenix, Ariz	For more information visit <a href="https://www.womenoftheelca.org/eleventh-triennial-convention">https://www.womenoftheelca.org/eleventh-triennial-convention</a>
August 14, 2021	35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction	For more information visit <a href="https://www.lutherdale.org/">https://www.lutherdale.org/</a>
July 24-28, 2022	ELCA Youth Gathering - Boundless: God Beyond Measure, Minneapolis, MN	<a href="https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19">https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19</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>