



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #501

October 27, 2020

22nd Sunday after Pentecost (November 1, 2020)



Micah declares God's condemnation of those who abhor justice. Jesus warns against hypocrisy. Paul urges the Thessalonians to lead a life worthy of God. Called to be humble servants, we gather for worship, seeking justice and welcoming all people to share the banquet of life.

Readings

- [Micah 3:5-12](#) - Judgment upon corrupt rulers
- [Psalm 43](#) - Send out your light and truth, that they may lead me. (Ps. 43:3)
- [1 Thessalonians 2:9-13](#) - The apostle's teaching accepted as God's word
- [Matthew 23:1-12](#) - All who humble themselves will be exalted

If We Honored One Another

In October 1517 Martin Luther's Ninety-five Theses became public. It was a protest against the injustices he saw being committed by the church and its authorities. In today's readings we learn injustices were committed by the people in charge during biblical times as well, and times haven't changed. But while hypocrisy, bribery, and injustice seem a constant throughout our history, God's saving word is an even greater constant and a reason to thank God.

Luther, in his explanation of the fourth commandment, said we are to honor not only our parents but also "others in authority." It makes sense to think of the commandment this way. Luther believed that honoring our parents and those in authority was akin to honoring God. But Luther doesn't stop there. It isn't enough for us to honor those with authority over us; they in turn are to honor us by providing for our physical and spiritual needs.

What would the world look like if we simply honored one another? If we really cared about caring for one another? It sounds like a utopian idea, but we shouldn't give up on it too easily. The church is and should be a resource for spreading the gospel, and while good works don't get us into heaven they are a tangible expression of the gospel's message.

It's easy to focus on what's wrong with people today. We are good at pointing fingers. But today's readings should prompt us to look at how we participate, as Paul puts it, in a life worthy of God, who calls us into God's kingdom and glory. God calls us into the kingdom through love and brings us to it through grace. How can your congregation give thanks for that amazing gift?.



On October 18, Lutherdale held a special day of giving event - Lutherdale NOW - an emergency appeal to address the impact of COVID-19 on the ministry of Lutherdale and to ensure life changing adventure continues. The day of giving goal was 760 gifts. Leading up to this awesome day, staff alumni, Board members, campers, volunteers, and donors teamed together to share Lutherdale stories of impact via

facebook. On the day of, additional stories of impact were shared at the top of every hour from 8am - 8pm, along with live stream updates AND a celebratory evening Worship. All in all, over 30 stories were shared; you can view them on facebook @Lutherdale1944 or on YouTube Lutherdale Ministries. Just one week prior to the special day, faithful donors stepped forward to offer a \$100,000 matching gift for the event. God is good. Thanks to the gifts of both individuals and congregations, the \$100,000 was FULLY matched! We are grateful for the tremendous response and generosity of donors across the country! We continue to accept gifts for the Lutherdale NOW campaign as we work to meet the goal of 760 gifts. Gifts can be made by mail or phone ((262)742-2352), online at www.lutherdale.org or via Venmo @Lutherdale

U.S. Wildfires - The Situation:

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, wildfires have erupted across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. At least 20 people have died, hundreds of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and more than 3.5



million acres have burned across the three states. Some evacuees face the difficult decision of whether to stay in a shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lutheran Outdoor ministries has also been impacted by the fires, The Cameron Peak Fire, still burning in northern Colorado, impacted [Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp](#) in Fort Collins. While some structures at Sky Ranch, a ministry of the [Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA](#), were damaged by the flames, all of the buildings survived. We continue to pray for all those affected by the fires throughout the state.



Our Response: Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.

What you can do:

Pray: Please pray for the communities that lie in the paths of wildfires in the western United States. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

Give: Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "[U.S. Wildfires](#)" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. Or make a general [donation to Lutheran Disaster Response](#) so we can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike.

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- Share this [bulletin insert](#) with your congregation and encourage support.
- Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#).
- Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#).
- Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#) and follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#).

Responding to COVID-19

The ELCA is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. and around the world. "As a member of [The Lutheran World Federation](#), it is important that we walk with our global companions," said the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of Global Mission.



A child demonstrates handwashing at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. part of hygiene education to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the camp.

Since the outbreak began, the ELCA, through LDR, has financially supported 49 responses led by companion churches and organizations in 35 countries. In the United States, LDR has supported 28 synods and three social ministry organizations that developed feeding ministries

to meet needs brought about by COVID-19. In addition, the church has funded five international pandemic responses carried out by the LWF, ACT Alliance and Church World Service.

Given the numbers, some might argue that the ELCA ought to prioritize funding for the U.S. response. But Malpica Padilla points to theologian Emil Brunner, who wrote: "The Church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission, there is no Church; and where there is neither Church nor mission, there is no faith." [Read more in Living Lutheran](#)

Check out the [Metro Word flipbook](#) for more stories and events

Coming Events:

	Event/Activity	Resources
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	35th 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