



# Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

## Mission Memo #502

November 4, 2020

### 23rd Sunday after Pentecost (November 8, 2020)



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

#### Readings

- [Amos 5:18-24](#) - *Let justice roll down like waters*
- [Psalm 70](#) - *You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)*
- [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#) - *The promise of the resurrection*
- [Matthew 25:1-13](#) - *The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids*

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### Trusting in God, Trusting with God

Human beings are relational creatures. We are created to be in relationship with one another and with God. No one, no matter how independent or disconnected they may feel they are, functions completely outside the context of relationships. From the moment we are born we are thrust into relationship with people around us—the people who delivered us, the people who will be taking care of us in a hospital nursery, our family, and God. When we enter this world we do so forming relationships right from the start.

Relationships, healthy relationships, require a lot of work and care to continue. In particular, relationships require trust to grow and become mature. Relationships rooted in trust can bring out the best in us. Relationships rooted in anything else can bring out the worst.

Today's readings give us the chance to consider the trust required in the relationship between God and God's people. Moreover, we are invited to give thought to the consequences of replacing trust with something else: hubris stemming from trust in one's identity or work (in Amos), or hubris stemming from

trust in others to sustain us rather than *God* (in Matthew). Paul reminds us that our relationship with *God* is cause for joy, even in the midst of sorrow, since we believe (trust) *God's* promise of eternal life through the living Lord Jesus.

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## **ELCA presiding bishop Elizabeth Eaton speaks to the church about the election**



Today, the uncertainty of this election is causing anxiety and stress for many, not only in our church, but also across our nation and around the world. Even in the midst of a pandemic, voters have done their jobs and turned out in record numbers. And now our election officials are doing theirs, as they have in every previous election. We are thankful the election process has been peaceful.

The United States has always held elections and upheld a peaceful transfer of power, even in times of great crisis. We held successful presidential elections during the Civil War, the Great Depression and both World Wars. We honor our nation's legacy by exercising calm and patience while we wait for every vote to be counted while our election system does its work.

Regardless of the outcomes of this election, the ELCA will continue to lift up the gospel of Jesus Christ as the basis for equity, justice, and peace for all peoples and creation. As disciples in a democracy, we will hold fast to our commitments to gender justice, to dismantling white supremacy as an anti-racist church, to welcoming the stranger and accompanying the neighbor, to affirming LGBTQIA+ siblings, and seeking economic justice for all.

Dear church, this is a time to uphold the integrity of our election process, and it's also time for patience and prayer. Let us pray for election officials and peaceful advocates. Let us pray that all people in our nation will be treated with dignity and respect and not be discriminated against or intimidated during this deliberative process.

And let us pray now.

*Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Empower us to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in the love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in*

our midst and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Click the link to see it as a [video message](#).

## MOVING TOWARD HEALING



Whether violence mars this election or not, we are a nation in need of healing. One model for local congregation leadership in this healing is available in "[With Malice Towards None](#)," a program of *Braver Angels* that increases capacity for working together to address our common challenges. After the election has been decided, the initiative suggests healing through organized

online or in-person gatherings where "red and blue Americans consider how they want to regard their fellow citizens who voted differently and begin building the capacity of We the People to forge 'a more perfect union' moving into 2021."

As the global ecumenical communion urges us, our Christian community can hold forth a light in anxious times and not be subsumed by fear. In Zimbabwe, Junge wrote of the church's strong commitment "to walk with... all the people of Zimbabwe in prayers for peace and stability in the country in order for all to enjoy the fruits of their land." Spurred by the God of peace, we can address the deep-seated anger, frustration and dissatisfaction in our land and tend to our divisions by coming together to encounter, listen and learn about one another across differences.



**CHRISTMAS STARS  
PERFORMANCE SPECIAL**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

LUTHERDALE | N7891 US HIGHWAY 12, ELKHORN, WI 53121 | LUTHERDALE.ORG

In years past, Lutherdale Travel Ministry has taken guests to Appleton, Wisconsin to enjoy the Broadway style musical show Christmas Stars. This year, due to COVID-19, Christmas Stars will be presented in a one-hour performance special to be streamed at Lutherdale in the new Hope Conference Center.

Individuals of ALL ages can expect the usual fun of a theater production with an added dose of 'TV magic.' Experience this spectacular, holiday-themed extravaganza that celebrates and honors the joy of the Christmas season with a mix of secular and religious music, dance, skits, and plenty of fun!

1 PM SHOW or 3 PM SHOW

\$30 Adult Ticket | includes 1 lb box of Hughes Chocolates, Oshkosh, WI

\$5 Youth Ticket | 17 yrs and under

Deadline to Register, Monday December 7, 2020

*Masks will be required indoors. Seating will provide physical distancing. Space limited to 60 individuals per show. COVID-19 Liability Waiver required for all individuals. Lutherdale Staff will disinfect public & seating areas between shows.*

Call (262) 742-2352 to Register. [Click here](#) for more information.

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

**Coming Events:**

	<b>Event/Activity</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<b>June , 2021</b>	<b>Mission Moments - 33rd Annual Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, a virtual event</b>	For more information visit <a href="http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/">http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/</a>
<b>August 3-5, 2021</b>	<b>The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, Phoenix, Ariz</b>	For more information visit <a href="https://www.womenoftheelca.org/eleventh-triennial-convention">https://www.womenoftheelca.org/eleventh-triennial-convention</a>
<b>August 14, 2021</b>	<b>35<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction</b>	For more information visit <a href="https://www.lutherdale.org/">https://www.lutherdale.org/</a>
<b>July 24- 28, 2022</b>	<b>ELCA Youth Gathering - Boundless: God Beyond Measure, Minneapolis, MN</b>	<a href="https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19">https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19</a>
<b>August 8- 13, 2022.</b>	<b>2022 Churchwide Assembly Columbus, OH at the Greater Columbus Convention Center</b>	For more information check <a href="http://www.elca.org">www.elca.org</a>