



# Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

## Mission Memo #568

Aug. 2, 2022



### 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Aug 7, 2022)

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

#### Readings

- [Genesis 15:1-6](#) - *God's promise of a child for Abram and Sarai*
- [Psalm 33:12-22](#) - *Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)*
- [Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16](#) - *A model for us: Abraham's faith in a new home given by God*
- [Luke 12:32-40](#) - *God will give you the treasure of the kingdom; sell all that you have*

#### A Kingdom for the Little Flock

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock, straining our minds with this uninhibited generosity. Even to us, so little and undeserving? Even to us, in the face of so many things to be afraid of? Suddenly everything we hold dear in this world is re-priced, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not sell our possessions and give to those in need? We are being given the kingdom! So why not wait on expectant tiptoes for the master? When he comes he will wait on us! The Father's free generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never before known. Fear is now met with anticipation, and tightfistedness with open hands. We are being given the kingdom, so now we know what true treasure looks like. And yet, like our fathers and mothers in faith that the Hebrews reading speaks of, we too "desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one." But in Christ our heavenly country has already arrived. In him, God has freely given us the kingdom.



Beginning on July 27, a line of severe storms dumped record amounts of rain on eastern Kentucky, overflowing rivers and creeks onto streets and neighborhoods. The death toll in Kentucky is expected to rise as search and rescue efforts continue. Though hundreds of people have been rescued, the number of people missing is still unknown. Rising waters are damaging infrastructure, including roads, bridges and power lines, which hinders rescue efforts. The flooding has destroyed hundreds of homes and other buildings and left families with nothing. These severe floods are not limited to Kentucky; there has been flooding in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia and other states in the region.

As the waters recede and the full scope of the damage is assessed, [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) will work with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and local communities to focus on long-term needs. We anticipate that the response will include rebuilding homes, replacing lost household items and providing emotional and spiritual care to survivors. This is in addition to our ongoing response to the December 2021 tornadoes in western Kentucky.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. Flooding" will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by floods. Together, we can support those who are on the long road to recovery. [Please give today.](#)

### **Lutheran Disaster Response - Partnering in Recovery**

Recently, a Camp Noah event was held in Marshall County, Kentucky., to help children process the impact that the December 2021 tornadoes had on their mental, emotional and spiritual health.

Through art, music, and group activities, elementary-age children processed the disaster, learned what it means to be in a safe place and learned coping skills for future



situations that make the child feel unsafe. Each camper also received a fleece blanket and many carried their blankets with them throughout the week as a source of comfort.

Each child had their own unique, personal experience. One camper lost parents and a grandparent after the tornado. When their emotions overwhelmed them, counselors encouraged the child to hold their blanket around them like a hug.

Another camper was not interested in taking part in any of the activities. However, as the week continued, the child became more involved and by the end of the week, volunteers said the participant was almost a different person.

When devastating storms or other traumatic events occur, it's often thought that everything is going to be okay once clean-up and repairs are finished. But trauma continues long after the event and children are often not taught ways to cope - Camp Noah strives to change that. We are so grateful for our partnership with [Camp Noah!](#)



## **Ukraine and Eastern Europe Crisis Response Still Critical**

As the Russian aggression against Ukraine continues it receives less news coverage, there is a danger that the plight of the people and the country could be forgotten. It is important that we do not let that happen, so we continue to raise it up. Peace must return to the country, Russian leadership must be held accountable and the Ukrainian people restored to their homes.

Since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine on Feb. 24, millions of people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many people fleeing their homes in Ukraine need shelter and basic necessities such as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Moldova, as well as ecumenical partners such as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian

responses to the crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. **Your gifts will support people impacted by the war. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.** (You will find a link on [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) )

### **August Recess Refugee Advocacy Days August 22nd - August 26<sup>th</sup>**

LIRS and CWS are pleased to join [We Are All America](http://www.elca.org) and its partners to host Refugee Advocacy Days during the Congressional August Recess, which is scheduled the week of August 22nd. This is an opportunity for community members, faith leaders, advocates, resettlement staff, and others to show their support for pro-refugee and pro-asylum measures with their members of Congress while they are home in-district.

We invite you to [register](#) to participate in the Refugee Advocacy Days by **Friday, August 5th**. Participants will not only have the opportunity to meet with their Members of Congress and their staff (in-person or virtually), but will also be able to attend a number of special training sessions to help build and expand their advocacy toolbelt. All participants must attend at least one preparatory training scheduled on August 19th or August 20th. To learn more about the upcoming advocacy days, please see [We Are All America's Concept Note](#).



A reminder, the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 8-12, at the [Greater Columbus Convention Center](#). We gather under the theme, *Embody the Word*. The 2022 Churchwide Assembly will honor and celebrate Indigenous people through presentations and worship during this weeklong event, to be held Aug. 8-12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton will open the assembly on Tuesday, Aug. 9, with a land acknowledgment noting that the gathering is taking place on the original and ancestral homelands of the Shawnee, Miami and Kaskaskia peoples.

On Wednesday, Aug. 10, the assembly will [honor Indigenous people](#) through various observances and presentations.

[Find out](#) more about the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, including livestream information by clicking on the link or going to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

	<b>Event/Activity</b>	<b>Resources</b>
August 8-12, 2022.	2022 Churchwide Assembly Columbus, OH at the Greater Columbus Convention Center	For more information check <a href="https://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly">https://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly</a>
August 13, 2022	The 36th Annual Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction	<a href="https://www.lutherdale.org/upcoming-events-1">https://www.lutherdale.org/upcoming-events-1</a>
Sept 11, 2022	"God's work. Our hands." Sunday A Day of Service	<a href="http://ELCA.org/DayofService">ELCA.org/DayofService</a>
Sept 16-18, 2022	ELCA Mission Interpreter Gathering in Winston-Salem, NC.	Learn more and register at: <a href="https://demdsynod.org/elca-mission-interpreter-fall-2022-gathering/">https://demdsynod.org/elca-mission-interpreter-fall-2022-gathering/</a>
Oct 15, 2022 8:30 to 2:30	Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization Annual Meeting, "We are one - putting pieces together" Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Rd, Evanston, IL	Details to come soon