



# Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

## Mission Memo #569

Aug.10, 2022



“The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

### Readings

- [Jeremiah 23:23-29](#) - *God's word is like fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks*
- [Psalm 82](#) + *Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)*
- [Hebrews 11:29--12:2](#) - *The faith of the Hebrew people, a great cloud of witnesses*
- [Luke 12:49-56](#) - *Jesus brings fire on earth and has a baptism with which to be baptized*

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### The Reality of Division

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, Jesus calls on his hearers to turn their hearts away from greed and instead to generosity, to turn away from anxious self-preservation and instead to faithful self-giving. But such practice rubs against humanity's deepest-seated sin, so conflict is born out of Jesus' peace-filled activity. Jesus' words and actions had already pitted him against the religious leaders and will lead him to the cross. Now, in today's gospel, Jesus speaks to the reality of that division.

His words unsettle us, yet they are spoken for a reason. In the reading from Jeremiah, God challenges the prophets who dole out lies and deceit and asks, how long until they turn their hearts back to me? This is a question of compassion and yearning for a restored relationship. Likewise, although Jesus' words are incendiary and speak of broken relationships, they are meant to prompt the people's faithful response: to lay aside anxiety and greed and to turn their hearts to the treasures of God's promised kingdom, where Christ takes division upon himself on the cross.

While fully aware of the realities of conflict and division, we are to live as hopeful people, praying fervently for God's compassion and for the restoration of right relationships.



2022 ELCA  
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY  
August 8-12, 2022  
Columbus, Ohio

Stay up-to-date with the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, convening Aug. 8-12! Our livestream, updates, land acknowledgement, FAQs and more can all be found at [elca.org/ChurchwideAssembly](https://elca.org/ChurchwideAssembly) . #ELCAcwa

Living Lutheran is providing overviews of activities and actions for each day. Click on the line to go to the day's article:

[2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly - Day one](#)

[2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly - Day two](#)

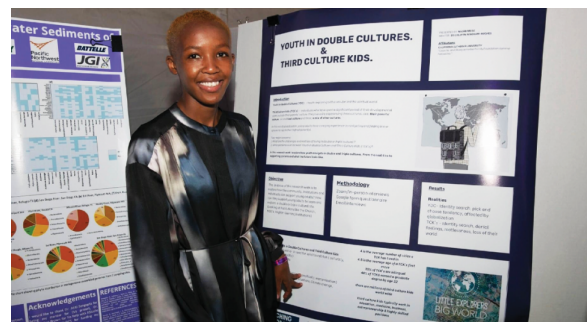
You can find more reports and pictures from the Assembly from [Living Lutheran](#) and the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America facebook page](#).

### Expanding our capacity to listen

"Learning how to adapt to new things, new cultures and new experiences in order to better carry out God's work in the world needs to be the focus of the church."

Naomi Mbise grew up in Tanzania and is now studying at California Lutheran University as an International Women Leaders scholar. She is drawing on her own

experience moving between places and spaces as she studies how young people navigate multiple cultures. [Click here to learn more about Naomi.](#)



### Farm Bill Advocacy

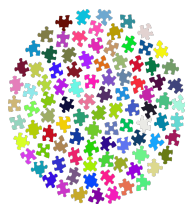
The farm bill is legislation passed every five years that has a tremendous impact on hunger in the United States and globally. The current farm bill expires in 2023, so

the process is ramping up - where the programs covered in the bill are debated, refreshed and ultimately passed by Congress toward being signed into law. Now is the time for our input and advocacy to shape the next farm bill with priorities that draw us closer to a world where all are fed!

### **Why does the farm bill matter?**

The farm bill affects everyone. This policy connects to your community locally and globally, such as healthy food access for low-income families, food waste reduction, conservation practices, rural development and much more. The ELCA supports a farm bill that will promote a strong and resilient food-supply chain and provide needed nutrition through domestic and international programs. Our advocacy as Lutherans in this process will draw attention to faith-based priorities to end hunger and create a more sustainable world through this policy in our lives and the lives of our neighbors.

[Click here](#) for more information and ways that you can help.



### **WHICH PIECE ARE YOU?**

**Come and Find Out!**

**2022 SWO Convention**

**"We Are One: Putting Pieces Together"**

**October 15, 2022, 8:30am - 2:30pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**3637 Golf Road Evanston, IL 60203**

**(847) 673-8564**

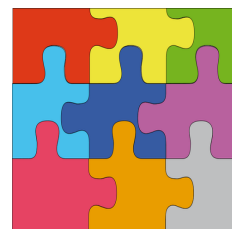
We are excited to be able to meet in person for this time of fellowship and learning. We are privileged to have Pr. Christina Montgomery as our keynote speaker, and Pr. Rebekah Wendt Costello as our homilist. Lunch provided by Curt's Café (Cultivating Unique Restaurant Training) <https://curtscafe.org/>.

### **HOW WILL YOU COMPLETE THIS PUZZLE?**

(A registration form is at the end of the Memo)

### **LWR Situation Report No. 5: War in Ukraine**

Lutheran World Relief has committed more than \$10 million to



respond to this crisis, and will expand our response to reach more Ukrainians as we secure additional funding. We have deployed technical staff to support our relief operations, including program managers, a health advisor, and an advisor to lead our efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees. We are bringing together expertise from our Corus organizations [IMA World Health](#), [Lutheran World Relief](#) and [CGA Technologies](#).

[Click here](#) for the the report with more details.

	<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



# Registration for 2022 SWO Convention "We Are One: Putting Pieces Together"

October 15, 2022, Trinity Lutheran Church  
3637 Golf Road Evanston, IL 60203  
(847) 673-8564



This form is to be used by both voting members and participants. Please duplicate as needed. All are welcome to attend even if you do not have a women's organization in your congregation. Check-in will begin at 8:30 am with coffee and treats available.

**Voting Member INFORMATION:** Each congregation is to choose one woman who is willing to prayerfully participate in the business meeting and be willing to share information and inspiration from the day with her congregation. She will sit in the Voting Member Section during the business meeting.

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

### CONGREGATION NAME & CITY

\_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**HOME ADDRESS:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**STREET**

**CITY**

**STATE**

**ZIP**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE**

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL**

ARE YOU A Voting member?: Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Fee

\$30.00 – Registration received on or before **September 24**

\$35.00 – Registration received after **September 24**

\$40.00 – **Registration at the door**

Need a scholarship? Please email Carol at [mcswores@gmail.com](mailto:mcswores@gmail.com) by September 1.

I have enclosed my registration and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to assist someone else.

Lunch will be served, please note any special dietary requests.

Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten free \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy free \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Sandwich: Turkey-cheddar \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef-Swiss \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie Caprese \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete the registration form above.

Register on line at <https://mcselca.org/swo-convention-2022/> OR

Mail registration form and check (made out to Metro Chicago SWO) to Sandie Schlauch, 7803 Palma Lane, Morton Grove, IL 60053 no Later than October 8

**In-Kind Donations** of non-perishable food items are being requested for **Connections for the Homeless, Evanston**. Suggested items include socks, toiletries (travel and regular size), shelf stable foods. Any additional questions email Carol at [mcswores@gmail.com](mailto:mcswores@gmail.com).