



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #570

Aug.23, 2022



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Readings

- [Proverbs 25:6-7](#) - *Do not put yourself forward*
- [Psalm 112](#) - *The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)*
- [Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16](#) - *God is with us: let acts of mutual love continue*
- [Luke 14:1, 7-14](#) - *An image of God's reign: invite the poor, crippled to your banquet*

Radical Love Triumphs

For most of human history wisdom was largely part of an oral tradition. From one generation to the next, wisdom was passed down. These days it sometimes seems that technology has replaced that tradition of shared wisdom. Rather than ask a trusted elder the temptation is to pull out a smartphone and do a quick Internet search. Next thing you know, there it is, wisdom at your fingertips—maybe. Could it be that something is lost in the process? We can find facts online, but virtues like humility, respect of elders, hospitality, servanthood, and peacemaking do not seem to translate as easily in the electronic age. In the gospel reading Jesus takes the time to pass on some ancient-yet-prudent wisdom from the proverbs of Solomon to a crowd of social climbers who obviously were not familiar with such prudence or wisdom.

More significantly Jesus lifts up the mysteriously gracious and life-transforming values of the kingdom of God. Jesus lifts up the humility required to take the lowest seat at the table, never hoping to be invited to a place of greater honor or status. Jesus invites his followers to practice the hospitality that offers a banquet of the finest of foods for people who cannot repay. Jesus invites his followers to embody the kind of radical-yet-relational love of Jesus himself. This radical love is taught by both individuals and congregations.

Communities of faith by their practices of generosity and compassion embody the love of Jesus in their communities.

ELCA Fund for Leaders awards TEEM scholarships

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Fund for Leaders will award 375 scholarships to students attending the seven seminaries of the ELCA for the 2022-2023 academic year.

This year the ELCA Fund for Leaders will distribute around \$3.5 million through several types of scholarships, including direct full-time scholarships, federal chaplaincy ministries scholarships, mission developer scholarships, and synod or congregation scholarships.

A new category this year will award \$400,000 through 80 scholarships for Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) candidates who are identified by their synods. TEEM is a certificate program, not a full-time degree, and the candidates go through the same candidacy process as other rostered ministers. TEEM candidates usually end up serving the congregations that nurtured their call.

"TEEM is doing theology in a fine balance of action and reflection, study and ministry at the same time," said the Rev. Dr. Moses Paul Peter Penumaka, director of TEEM at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif. "TEEM is not only transforming the face of the ELCA but the heart and mind of the Lutheran church. When TEEM candidates go to seminary, the whole congregation goes to seminary. TEEM is a practical way of making congregations vital, vibrant and viable."

The Rev. Marissa Krey, director of ELCA Fund for Leaders, emphasized the need for scholarships across all categories of rostered ministry. "We think it's vitally important to provide support to all leaders answering God's call to serve in a variety of ways," she said.

[Learn](#) more about ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships.

2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly elects new vice president

Imran Siddiqui of St. John's Lutheran Church, Atlanta, was elected to a six-year term as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The assembly — the highest



legislative authority of the ELCA — met Aug. 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio.

Siddiqui was elected on the fifth ballot with 550 votes to 264 votes for Roberto Lara Aranda of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, N.Y.

"The top three people for this position were people of color, and that's fantastic. ... That doesn't mean we have solved racism yet. We have a lot of work to do, church. We have a lot of work to do and I'm confident; I believe we can do it," said Siddiqui, addressing the assembly following the election.

Siddiqui, who grew up Muslim and became a Lutheran in 2011, has served as vice president of the ELCA Southeastern Synod since 2018.

The position of vice president is the highest a layperson can hold in the ELCA. Carlos Peña is currently serving as interim vice president following the death of Bill Horne last August. Horne was elected vice president by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

"I thank you for your faith in me," Siddiqui told the assembly. "I will try not to let you down."

Visit <https://elca.org/churchwideassembly> for more information on the Assembly.

Highlights from Lutherdale's 36th Annual Fest & Quilt Auction

We kicked off the event with a NEW 50Forward Program - A Look Inside the Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction - highlighting the treasured history of the auction. Attendees had the first glimpse of over 302 displayed quilts for this year's auction. Pre-Fest activities followed on Friday evening and included a delicious Wisconsin Fish Fry, sale of Baked Goods, Quilt Viewing, Silent Auction Baskets, sale of fabrics, handmade quilts and other items in our gift gallery.



Over 350 people attended the LIVE Auction led by our talented auctioneers, Gary Finley and Ron Bigelow. Blessed with over 88 volunteers, 55 silent auction baskets, and 302 quilts in the auction, there was an incredible outpouring of generosity and love!

At Lutherdale, we believe that every child deserves to be welcomed, accepted, known and celebrated in a Christ-centered environment. We have over 75 years of experience in running summer camps. **This event gives children, of all ages, the opportunity to experience summer camp at Lutherdale.**

With the help of donors, local businesses, Thrivent Financial Shoreline Group, volunteers, and bidders, this annual event raised a total of \$66,161.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

A LDR Video to share

Wondering what Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) has been doing for the past few years? Here's the video update shared at the Churchwide Assembly

#ELCAcwa:

<https://bit.ly/3zKjzTW>



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is Sunday, September 11, 2022.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in

Jesus Christ - every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life - flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. [Click here](#) for more information.



	Event/Activity	Resources
Sept 11, 2022	"God's work. Our hands." Sunday A Day of Service	ELCA.org/DayofService
Sept 16-18, 2022	ELCA Mission Interpreter Gathering in Winston-Salem, NC.	Learn more and register at: https://demdsynod.org/elca-mission-interpreter-fall-2022-gathering/
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	Registration form below or go to https://mcselca.org/swo-convention-2022/



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 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.