

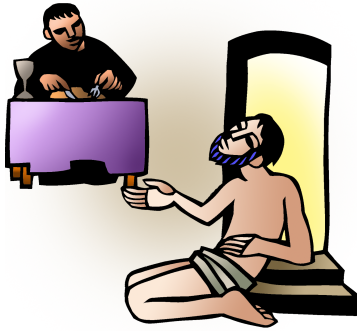


Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #572

Sept.20, 2022



Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

Readings

- [Amos 6:1a, 4-7](#) - Warnings to those who are comfortable or wealthy
 - [Psalm 146](#) - The Lord gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)
 - [1 Timothy 6:6-19](#) - Eager to be rich or eager to pursue richness of God's justice?
 - [Luke 16:19-31](#) - Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man
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Place-sharing

Today's gospel evokes our sympathy. It opens the possibility—described as an impossibility—of place-sharing, trading or sharing places with each other. It also echoes a common theme: the pursuit of wealth in this world can lead us into idolatry and away from faith in Christ. Instead, as the reading from 1 Timothy reminds us, we should pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness, so that there is no "poor man named Lazarus" dying at our gates. After all, the greatest treasure—our eternal salvation has already been procured for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. Knowing this, we can share all we have with our neighbors, even our very place and salvation, confident that God will continue to provide for our needs.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Over the weekend, several disasters around the world made headlines, including Hurricane Fiona, Typhoon Nanmadol, earthquakes and other severe weather. With your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, we can respond to as many as possible - whenever and wherever they strike. Updated will be coming, you can give today: <https://bit.ly/3LsEQH1>



Encounter with LWF refugee staff in Poland

(LWI) - Fleeing war, and coming to a strange country is a challenge. Even more so, if you do not speak the language, or any foreign language at all. Like in all other country programs therefore, LWF in Poland does not only work with local staff, but also employs refugees in its centers.

"I had to flee Ukraine, it was terrible. I had to leave my home, my job... I was forced to leave my country to protect my children," says Olga, who worked in a state bank in Odessa before. Working with refugees is not new to her, Olga has been assisting internally displaced people from the Donbass since 2014. She believes that as a refugee, she best understands the situation of the people LWF supports. At the same time, being able to work helps her and her family, not only financially: "This job makes me feel needed," Olga says.



90 percent of the staff in the LWF multipurpose cash assistance centers in Poland are refugees from Ukraine themselves, says Allan Calma, LWF Global Humanitarian Coordinator. Calma set up the centers in Poland together with the UN refugee agency UNHCR and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, an LWF member church. "It made more sense to recruit refugees since the work entails active engagement and information gathering with refugees from Ukraine." For the people seeking assistance, it was a relief to be welcomed by people from their own country. "We could see the joy and relief from visitors to the center at being welcomed and attended to by fellow Ukrainians. More importantly, from experience in working in other refugee contexts, LWF knows how critical it is for refugees to be able to engage in gainful employment and become self-sufficient." Calma adds.

"Working in the center helped me find a balance in my life after coming to Poland. It helps me not to think about all the terrible things that are happening in Ukraine right now," says Anastasia, a law graduate who already worked in Canada and Turkey as a business administrator. Now she works as an usher in the MPCA enrolment center in Gdansk, and handles complaints. Sometimes she also steps in to translate.

[\(READ MORE\)](#)

Situation Report: Kentucky Flooding - September 9, 2022

While new disasters occur frequently Lutheran Disaster Response is there to assist after the news coverage has ended. 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. Rising waters damaged infrastructure, including roads, bridges and power lines, which hindered rescue efforts. The flooding destroyed hundreds of homes and other buildings.



Response:

To respond to the flooding, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is supporting the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to rebuild homes in Owsley County, one of the poorest counties in Kentucky. The homes all belong to families who wouldn't have been able to rebuild without financial support. Additionally, the synod is replacing septic tanks for 25 families. LDR is also supporting Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

which accompanies Manna from Heaven, a feeding ministry in Myra, KY, that received an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant. It lost everything inside the building and the LDR grant will replace the building's contents, including furniture and food storage appliances, as well as rewiring the electricity for the building. ([Read More and learn how you can help](#))

	Event/Activity	Resources
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://mcseica.org/swo-convention-2022/
Nov 11 - 12, 2022, 9:30 pm to 5 am	Youth Ministry Network Ultimate Lock-In,	For details visit: https://mcseica.org/youth-ministry-network-ultimate-lock-in-2/



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.