



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #575

Oct. 11, 2022



It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

Readings

- [Genesis 32:22-31](#) - *Jacob's struggle with the angel: I'll not let go until you bless me*
- [Psalm 121](#) - *My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)*
- [2 Timothy 3:14--4:5](#) - *In the presence of Christ the judge, proclaim the message*
- [Luke 18:1-8](#) - *The widow begs for justice; God grants justice to those who cry to him*

Kyrie eleison: Persistence in Prayer

Two characters step out of scripture today to teach us about persistence in prayer. One is named. Jacob is the devious brother who tricked his twin, Esau, out of his birthright and their father's blessing, and Jacob was himself duped on his wedding night by his father-in-law, Laban. The other character, unnamed, is a widow acquainted with grief, one among many marginalized and vulnerable people, but a woman who dares to stand her ground in her quest for justice. On the banks of the river Jabbok, Jacob wrestles with the angel and limps away with a blessing and a new identity. The unnamed widow repeatedly appeals for justice and finally is vindicated. Many have known persistent prayer as a kind of wrestling with God. Many have pleaded with God for justice and mercy. Today God's grace and mercy is known in the blessing of baptismal remembrance and our identity as beloved children of God.

A [#prayer](#) for those affected by natural disasters 🙏

Save us, O God, for the waters are rising, and there is no firm place to stand. Life as we know it has been swept away. Draw near to us in this time of need and be our protection. Support us as we rebuild what has been ruined. Do not let us drown in our sorrow, but raise us to new life in your promise of rebirth, already claimed for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ACS p. 49)

Lutheran Disaster Response / Situation Report: Pakistan Flooding



Since June 2022, Pakistan has experienced historic monsoon weather, with rainfall leading to torrential flooding.

The flooding is causing a widespread humanitarian crisis, with people losing homes, crops and livestock. Millions of people are displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance, such as food, temporary shelter, health services and other supplies.

Lutheran Disaster Response is contributing to an [appeal from ACT Alliance](#) to address the monsoon flooding in Pakistan. The implementing partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA)

will provide cash assistance so impacted families can buy food and other needs. CWSA is also setting up mobile health clinics to address health needs and will help communities build the capacity to construct flood-resilient homes. The homes are being built by local laborers involved as part of a cash for work program.

Be part of the response:

Pray - Please pray for people who have been affected by the flooding in Pakistan. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Give - Thanks to generous donations, Lutheran Disaster Response is able to respond quickly and effectively to disasters around the globe. Your [gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response](#) (Lutheran Disaster Response-International) will be used to assist survivors of the flooding and other disasters around the world.

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#).
- Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#).
- Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#), follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#), and follow @ELCA_LDR on [Instagram](#).
- Download the situation report and share as a [PDF](#).



See your generosity in action through creative and sustainable solutions to ending hunger and learn something new about the complexity of the food crisis our world faces. Don't miss it: the event begins at 4 p.m. CT — make sure you

"like" the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) page so you're notified when we go "live" on October 16th!

Listening to others: an essential element of mission



How do we, as Christians, understand our mission today? How do we respond to Christ's great commission at the end of Matthew's gospel to 'go and make disciples of all nations?'"

That question was at the heart of a greeting by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt to the Association of Protestant

Churches and Missions in Germany (Evangelische Mission Weltweit, EMW) at their annual General Assembly in Hamburg.

It is our task, she said, to pass on what our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to do: to share with others the Good News of our liberation, to serve fellow human beings, to respect the dignity of other and to work for reconciliation.

In carrying out this task, Burghardt noted, "we should always be aware that even mission understood in this way can only succeed if we are willing to listen to others. Listening is the unspoken element of the great mission commandment, she emphasized, because without it, "there is no understanding, no empathy and ultimately no acceptance." [\(READ MORE\)](#)

Attention to U.S. Hunger at White House Conference

When the ELCA signed a request of President Biden to host a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health, the group of organizations stated: "We *can* end hunger in America, and a public commitment to a White House Conference, with ending hunger as a key priority, is an essential step in accomplishing this goal" (March 14, 2022 [Letter](#)). The conference sponsored by the White House on September 28 became the second of its kind in over half a century. Tackling hunger, nutrition and health in America was the theme, accompanied by the announced *Biden-Harris Administration National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*.

“The vision of ELCA World Hunger is nothing short of a just world where all are fed.”

– Ryan Cumming,
ELCA Program Director
for Hunger Education

Hunger in the United States

According to the White House data on hunger, nutrition and health, [1 in 10 American households experience food insecurity](#). Additionally, diet-related diseases are some of the leading causes of death in the United States of America: [10% of Americans have diabetes](#), 1 in 3 Americans will have cancer in their lifetime, and more than [40% of Americans suffer from high blood pressure](#). These grim statistics disproportionately affect communities of color, [people living in rural areas](#), [people living in U.S. territories](#), people with disabilities, older adults, [LGBT community members](#), [military families and veterans](#). It is with this landscape that the work being done by government programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); school meals and Child Tax Credits (CTC) is important for meeting basic needs. Among [ELCA federal policy prioritization](#) is supporting the strength and reach of these programs.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE STRATEGY AND GET INVOLVED](#)

	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://mcselca.org/swo-convention-2022/
October 29, 2022	Lutheran Social Service of Illinois (LSSI) 41st annual True Friend Celebration Union League Club of Chicago	For more information visit www.LSSI.org/TrueFriend or email Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org
Nov 5, 2022 at 3 pm CDT	WELCA 2022 Thankoffering Service on Saturday , Spanish translation will be provided.	Advance registration is required. Register to attend.
Nov 11 - 12, 2022, 9:30 pm to 5 am	Youth Ministry Network Ultimate Lock-In , Enchanted Castle, Lombard	For details visit: https://mcselca.org/youth-ministry-network-ultimate-lock-in-2/
June 3, 2023	MS Synod Assembly 2023 In Jesus Name - Make Disciples Q Center, St. Charles	For more information visit https://mcselca.org/who-we-are/synod-assembly/