



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #576

Oct. 18, 2022



Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.

Readings

- [Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22](#) - *Jerusalem will be defeated*
 - [Psalm 84:1-7](#) - *Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:5)*
 - [2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18](#) - *The good fight of faith*
 - [Luke 18:9-14](#) - *A Pharisee and tax collector pray together*
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God Be Merciful

We may expect the religious insider to be blessed, the moral person to be right with God. But as is so often the case, Jesus' parable for today sweeps away conventional expectations. Jesus surprises the disciples and us when he says it's not the Pharisee but rather the tax collector, that morally suspect, second-class citizen, who goes home "justified," right with God (Luke 18:14). Here is a strong reminder for those of us who are church "insiders." We are sinners who beg for God's mercy, utterly dependent on God's forgiveness and love—not merely for ourselves but for all in God's creation.

"A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN": ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM VENEZUELA SHARE THEIR STORY

We frequently hear stories with the number of people seeking to cross the border and enter the US, but we don't often hear the personal stories of the people who are in those numbers. LIRS shares a story from immigrants that provides their personal insights on why they were compelled to leave their home and seek refuge in the US. [The story you will find by clicking here](#) was shared by an asylum-seeking couple from Venezuela, who have chosen to remain anonymous for their security. The family was served by [Border Servant Corps](#) in Las Cruces, NM, which works in conjunction with LIRS to support asylum seekers.

Are you familiar with AMMPARO?

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.



The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected. Visit the [AMMPARO section](#) on ELCA.org to find more about the program, things you and your congregation can do and program resources.

Metro Chicago SWO Convention

We were pleased to again be part of the in-person Metro Chicago SWO Convention. It was good to visit with friends, be inspired in worship and the excellent workshops. It was a pleasure to join AMPPARO, Campus Ministry, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and ELCA Credit Union in sharing some things we are doing in the world.



Updates from Lutheran Disaster Response

[Lutheran Disaster Response](#) is working with the [Florida-Bahamas Synod](#) in response to Hurricane Ian. The synod is providing immediate relief and emotional and spiritual care to those impacted. Knowing that long-term recovery will take years, Lutheran Disaster Response and the synod are developing plans to address community needs as they arise.

Similar challenges exist around the world. We can see the needs from the Nigeria update below and responses in other [reports and updates in the ELCA Blogs](#).

Disaster Alert

Nigeria is currently experiencing its worst flooding in a decade. Over 600 people have been killed and an estimated 1.3 million people are displaced. The floods have destroyed farmlands and infrastructure and some areas could experience flooding through the end of November.

Join us in prayer for the people of Nigeria affected by the flooding. Lord, be with those displaced or impacted by the floodwaters and offer comfort to all in this time of uncertainty. May you ease the fears of all people and be with them as they face the road of recovery.



	Event/Activity	Resources
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/