

June Midweek Message series: "Lutheran Stories"

June 9th: History and Theology

Due to copyright rules, we will share the excerpts Pastor Ryan is referencing to our mailing list as a congregation-wide Bible study; however, we can't post those on our website. Here are the books and passages being used if you'd like to find your own copies:

Together By Grace: Introducing the Lutherans, edited by Kathryn A. Kleinhans, copyright 2016, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, Minneapolis. Pages 127-131: "Organizing to Serve" by Kathryn Kleinhans.

Stories from Global Lutheranism: A Historical Timeline, by Martin J. Lohrmann, copyright 2021, Fortress Press (Lutheran Quarterly Books), Minneapolis. Pages 104-106: "1734: Lutheran Refugees from Salzburg Arrive in Georgia"

For further reading on the agencies/ministries talked about:

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS): www.lirs.org

Lutheran World Relief (LWR): www.lwr.org

Lutheran Family Services: www.lutheranservices.org

In Virginia: www.encircleall.org

And here are two websites related to the Salzburger in Georgia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salzburger_emigrants#:~:text=The%20Salzburger%20Emigrants%20were%20a,1734%20to%20escape%20religious%20persecution.

<https://visitebenezer.com/georgia-salzburger-society/the-salzburgers/>

And ponder these questions:

What "wider" Lutheran ministries have you been a part of? Do some digging to find out all the various things your offerings contribute to in the form of Mission Support to our local Synod and to the ELCA in general. https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/WDMOG_Infographic_8x11.pdf

Do you have any stories from you family or ancestors regarding immigration/migration/refugees? How about anyone who needed aid in the aftermath of a war or natural disaster? Have you ever needed help in any kind? (The answer to that last one is yes.)

Take some time to explore some of the scriptural bases for the work our Lutheran agencies and ministries do: Matthew 25:34-40 is a key one; Jesus commandment to love others as he loved us; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 (and the Sermon on the Plain in Luke ; any time God's people

were refugees: Israel in exile; Joseph and eventually his brothers and father in Egypt; Jesus, Mary, and Joseph also in Egypt; Abraham and Sarah at various stages; and so many more!

How does God's grace form us to be gracious in turn? How do God's blessings inspire us to be blessings in turn? How does the help receive teach us to give help to others in need? Do you ever lose sight of this dynamic when you see folks in need?