

As people of faith, we pray and speak for hope, healing, justice, and peace and our shared humanity. As Lutheran social ministry organizations, we have a shared mission and set of values that recognize the dignity and worth of all people. Our commitment to honor the “whole person” and their needs with dignity and respect is deeply embedded in the DNA of the work we do across the country and through our work we strive for all people to reach their potential. Because when people reach their potential, our communities and our nation are stronger.

As we work to help heal our country, I wanted to lift up the voices of Lutheran social ministry from across the country.

Last week as the tragic events in Minneapolis unfolded with the senseless death of George Floyd. Damyn Kelly, President & CEO of Lutheran Social Services of New York wrote in a letter to his staff that “human services organizations and those who work in the sector have an obligation to not only act in ways that enhance the quality of life of those we serve but also to speak out against injustice when we see or experience it.”

From his home in Minneapolis, Antonio Oftelie, Executive Director of Leadership for a Networked World at Harvard University and Lutheran Services in America Board member, reflected that “the crisis in policing is like an MRI of society – it illuminates the parts that need to be fixed and healed. The path forward is to work upstream and solve the chronic root causes of social inequities and disparities. During these turbulent times, our ministry and work are more important than ever, as Lutheran Services in America and its members are able to not only provide hope, but also transform the lives of people and truly lift up people and communities.”

I’d like to close with “A Pentecost Prayer for People in Minneapolis and Beyond” from Rev. Dr. John Denninger, President of the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, who wrote that “We remember the people of Minneapolis – bearing the breathless moment shared with other cities: Ferguson, Charleston, Charlottesville, Sandtown, and more. Heal our cities as you sent each of us to meet each person in our path with the life-giving, life-changing, Kingdom presence of Christ. Holy Spirit--while we wait, breathe on us once again!”

We are praying not only for the victims of violence and their families today but for our nation as a whole during this heartbreaking time in our history.

In gratitude for all that you do,



Charlotte Haberaecker
President and CEO