

*“But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.”
Amos 5:24*

Amos, who was recognized as one of the greatest prophets, condemned injustice and oppression in his time. His message—that in the end judgment will fall on all unrighteousness—was viewed as alarmist at the time but was fulfilled less than 50 years later.

Amos' message—that God wants justice and that we are all interrelated—was echoed by Dr. Martin Luther King, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

We honored Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday yesterday at a unique time: during a once-in-a-life time pandemic with renewed calls for racial justice and fresh images of the violence at the U.S. Capitol two weeks ago. It's a time of fear and apprehension for what comes next. And it's a time of enormous financial and emotional stress for Lutheran social ministry organizations across the country.

As people of faith, we know that “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” (Dr. Martin Luther King). We also recognize the toll that systemic racism has on the health and well-being of people of color, the disproportionate share and poorer outcomes of youth of color in our child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and the disparate share of chronic health conditions and COVID-19 among people of color among many other indicators we could cite. And we commit to eliminate it, because as Dr. King said “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

As Lutheran social ministry organizations, we are not silent about things that matter. We trust in God's promise of a future where “Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 40:4-5).

In gratitude for all that you do,



Charlotte Haberaecker
President and CEO