



October 25, 2021

Grace and Gratitude

“Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home”

Next Sunday is the 504th anniversary of the Reformation. Martin Luther’s theological insight that it’s not about what we have done but about God’s gift of grace to us through Jesus--which opens us up to caring for others--led to the founding of Lutheran social ministry.

A social ministry that did not want to see people begging in the streets as they had for generations but that recognized the dignity and worth of all people. One that pooled resources across a community to enable people to thrive, that partnered with the community, government, and others, and that redefined “charity”—all in the 1500s.

A lot has changed in the past 500 years. But when I look across our network, I see a deep commitment to our mission and to putting people at the center of our work, to ensuring we can meet the “whole needs” of people so they can thrive, and to strengthening our organizations so they can continue to lift up people for the next generation.

And despite the challenges of workforce shortages, the pandemic, the regulatory environment and more, I see a determination to persist, to pivot our organizations, and to reimagine our future.

There are inflection points throughout history, times of significant change or turning points. The Reformation was one of them. I think we’re living through another inflection point—one that will redefine how we empower and care for people, that will reshape our organizations, and that will reinvent our future.

Thank you for your leadership in this momentous time, your commitment to your mission, and your courage to face the future.

In gratitude for all that you do,



Charlotte Haberaecker

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President and CEO