

The Social and Ecological Justice Ministries of the three congregations worshipping at Trinity Lutheran Church find ourselves moved by love to respond to the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. We believe that this is a human justice concern and, as such, cannot be ignored. In looking to the Bible, we see in **Micah 6:8 “He has told you O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”**

We confess our own complicity in systemic racism and racial bias. We confess that we have not done enough to engage in the difficult work of examining our own personal bias. While hearing about white privilege, we have remained complacent with the status quo as it makes life easier for many of us. The presence of racism is woven into the fabric of life in the United States, destroying hope and opportunity for others in our midst. We confess our lack of educating ourselves about government policies that have throughout our history denied equal access to home ownership, quality education, equitable health care, safe places to live and fair treatment in the justice system. This is not a call to feel guilty which only leads to defensiveness or denial of real problems to make ourselves feel better. Instead, this is a call to focus beyond ourselves toward others with love and compassion.

Recent events have made it glaringly apparent that justice has not been equally given to all in our country. In already difficult times like these that threaten to divide and destroy us, we feel it essential to call our congregations together to promote unity and justice. We are encouraged by the swift bipartisan passage of SB 217 in our state to legally change policing policies but are aware that the culture and purpose of policing in the United States must also change.

As a ministry group in the church, we are hopeful that you will join us in the following:

- praying for spiritual guidance
- educating ourselves on systemic racism
- naming racist comments or actions in the community, among friends, in social media
- contacting legislators on pending bills
- actively advocating that police become guardians not warriors
- supporting efforts at restorative rather than punitive justice

This letter is a challenge to you to join with us in making a difference. We pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide us in this endeavor.

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good” Romans 12:9