

To Strive for Justice and Peace in all the Earth

From elca.org/faithpractices...

The Faith Practices Initiative of the ELCA urges members of this church to “put their faith into practice” by living out the promises contained in the liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism. In that promise, we pledge as members of the body of Christ through baptism to:

- live among God’s faithful people
- hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper
- proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- serve all people following the example of Jesus
- **strive for justice and peace in all the earth**

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21 NRSV

So I send you.

One of the most frequent complaints I hear from congregations today is about the dwindling weekly attendance. Upon further reflection, the expectation is that people will flock into the church building. But Jesus did not call us to be silos. Jesus sends us out. And not only does Jesus send us out, we are to go out with a mission. Part of that mission is to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. That is a pretty lofty God-sized mission. Yet I see it happening all around.

This past week at our Bishop’s Gathering, there was a Wall of Acts. Each wall was filled with activities and ministries in Northwestern Ohio that impacts the community and world. It was exciting to see all of the people involved, young and old alike. It was exciting to see ministry happening beyond the walls of the church building. It was fun to take new ideas and incorporate them into the congregation I serve. The foundational piece of each group’s activity was building relationships.

In order to strive for justice and peace, we have to know who we are standing alongside. We have to take time to listen to the stories, to hear their struggle, to be told what the needs are for that community, time and situation. We have to build relationships.

One of the resources available at

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Conversations_Race_Relations.pdf?_ga=2.81705054.891011038.1570885769-396601654.1536275519

is called The Journey to a Right Relationship. It is a four part Bible Study that challenges us to listen, squirm and get to know why God’s children are hurting. Be sure to check it out.

Be sure to check out the other resources for October and November at FaithfulTeaching.org. Join in the conversation on Facebook. And, if you have resources to share, please drop us a note.

One other note: in 2003, the Christian Education Network began as the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators. Media was print. Memberships supported the work. Over the years, times have changed. Printed newsletters and resource pages have gone by the wayside. But the work continues. As we wrap up the year of the *Living Our Baptism* initiative, we are looking ahead to 2020. So this year, as you are considering gifts for your staff, teachers and others who are passionate about lifelong faith formation, why not support the work of the Christian Education Network by making a gift in their honor or in memory of a loved one. You will also find a link to a downloadable card on the FaithfulTeaching.org homepage.

Blessings on your journey!
Pastor Juli Lejman-Guy, President