

FaithBIT

Neighbors Helping Neighbors-In Jesus' Name

Reflection by John Urbanski

"Out of the depths we cry to you, oh, Lord! Lord, hear our cries!" Psalm 130:1

Our whole community is crying out right now, crying in grief over the death of George Floyd, crying in anger and sadness over injustice and hate, crying in fear and confusion over violence and destruction. Where do we find comfort? How do we come together? Where is healing for our broken community, for the divisions between us and the injustice among us? Lord, what do we do? Lord, hear our cries!

The words above opened the online message from Immanuel last week in the midst of the crisis in our community. I was asking these exact questions – What can I do? Why did this happen, again? How can I help? Where can we find hope amidst the sorrow?

My feelings and those of my family grew as the civil unrest intensified. We watched in disbelief at what was happening. As our adult children scanned social media, we began to see postings of opportunities to respond. There were going to be collections of food, baby formula, diapers, cleaning materials to provide for people whose local grocery stores were destroyed. There were opportunities to gather and help clean up from the overnight property damage, ways to donate money to community organizations for emergency funds to help those in need.

Kim Rathjen (Coordinator of Outreach and Inreach at Immanuel) shared information from [Holy Trinity Lutheran Church](#), an ELCA faith community at the epicenter of the unrest. They were planning a collection of items for members of the neighborhood that now had nowhere to obtain these essential needs. We thought, that is something we can do right away!

On Pentecost Sunday morning, we went early to shop for requested items and checked our pantry shelves for a few more. After planning our route to arrive at Holy Trinity given the numerous road closures and detours, we arrived just before noon. We witnessed a scene that was truly remarkable and heart-warming despite the destruction. A neighborhood that had been devastated just hours earlier was quickly leaning on one another to stand stronger together. The larger community of the Twin Cities also stepped up in support during this time of need. I spoke to a person from St. Stephen's in Bloomington, another from Cambridge Minnesota. Neighbors helping neighbors, from near and far, in Jesus name.

We are all "Called to Care, Sent to Serve". Make no mistake, these needs will continue for quite some time. Keep watch for more opportunities to serve our neighbors. By doing so, each of us can transform ourselves and our community.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

