

FaithBIT



Calling me to care and sending me to serve

By Bev Osekowsky

As jury selection ends and the trial of Derek Chauvin begins, I think back to the scene of George Floyd on the ground under the knee of a policeman and the subsequent death of Mr. Floyd. I was appalled by the video and thought someone should have done something to prevent this from happening. My next thought was, "We can't let this happen again," but how does this "we" start if it isn't by individuals working together on the problem. Maybe this was the time that I could no longer be the complacent one but needed to be one of those individuals that did something.

At that time, Immanuel provided information, both in videos and in book studies, that were so helpful in educating me about racial issues. I knew racism existed in our country, but I did not realize all the laws that were enacted to the disadvantage of black and brown people and to the advantage of white people.

I also joined an Advocacy Group that Kim Rathjen, our Director of Outreach, had started. Through that I found out about bills in the legislature that the ELCA synod supports and ways to connect with our representatives in the state and at the national level to advocate for those bills.

In Luke 10:29-37 Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan after a lawyer asks him who his neighbor is. "A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead," Luke 10:30. Jesus continues to tell the story of how a priest and Levite pass by the injured man and do not help but a Samaritan, who is hated by the Jewish people, binds the injured man's wounds, helps him to an inn and pays for his care.

Jesus not only told this parable to the lawyer, but he told it to me and others who read the Bible. He is stating that where there is a need, that is where I should be. I am to be his hands and feet on this earth. He is "Calling me to Care and Sending me to Serve." The question is, "Am I listening?"

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