

**Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey**  
**Weekly Witness | October 12, 2017**

The parable from this Sunday is that of the wedding banquet thrown by a king, who when his wedding guests do not come invites those on the streets only to throw a guest out for not dressing for the occasion. Pastor Janet Hunt troubles this text on her [blog](#), writing: “I cannot help but wonder if Jesus is the wedding guest who is not wearing the wedding robe—the one who could not, would not pretend to honor a tyrant king by putting on that wedding robe—who on behalf of all of us was thrown into the outer darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew describes the Kingdom of Heaven throughout his gospel. It is eschatological, filled with justice for all of God’s children. Embracing God’s kingdom on this side of the eschaton might just look like refusing to bow to “the powers that be” when those most vulnerable suffer—even when they invite you in for the party. Standing alongside those communities who are undocumented, overpoliced, or underserved is a theological proclamation of God’s intention for the world and it is a prayer of intercession.

How might you proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven in your community with your actions? During the height of the civil rights era, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama. One of the protestors in that march was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. When Rabbi Heschel returned from Selma, he was asked by someone, “Did you find much time to pray, when you were in Selma?” Rabbi Heschel responded, “I prayed with my feet.” His marching, his protesting, his speaking out for the rights of everyone—they were the greatest prayer.

You can engage in acts of prayer in your own community. Send an email to your elected leaders in Washington asking them to [support the Dream Act](#). You can view the Episcopal Church’s recent ad in the New York Times that describes why we are called to do so as people of faith [here](#).

Attend a [community conversation focusing on juvenile justice](#) in New Jersey on **October 18th** in Willingboro, New Jersey. You can read about the Lutheran Church’s teaching on criminal justice reform [here](#).

[Participate in a rally](#) on **October 25th** in Morris Plains that will raise awareness of food instability in New Jersey and the need for robust SNAP funding. Get better acquainted with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) [here](#).