

Time's Up to re-imagine providing security.

The recent "Entry Into Force" of the agreements among 122 nations to no longer cooperate with any aspect of nuclear weapons is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons. {See more about the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, TPNW, and the resolution adopted by OSLC last year at <http://oursavioursmpls.org/additional-resources.html>

Last year at our annual meeting, OSLC forwarded a resolution supporting the TPNW to be considered by the synod and then the national assembly. Moral leaders (including Lutherans) have long pointed out the immorality of weapons of mass destruction. Nukes kill civilians indiscriminantly for generations. Research shows that females suffer twice as much as males from the radioactive results of testing and use. Using such weapons have long been illegal according to both international law and the US code on military force. The excuse was known by its proponents as M.A.D. – Mutually Assured Destruction. As though any human would have the moral right to annihilate all life! The waste of resources and the pollution for thousands of years that have resulted from the path of nuclear arming is appalling to contemplate.

But the US nuclear arms industry is "worth" about a trillion dollars and politicians have won votes by promising they can kill better than others. Americans generally have appeared comfortable about the command and control of thousands of nuclear weapons in our arsenals – or possibly in denial and ignorance. The disruptions at the capitol and the unprecedented transfer of presidential power also resulted in concern about who was in charge of the nuclear nemesis—highlighting its inherent vulnerability. Protests are also occurring in Russia, which with the US, holds the vast number of warheads and capacity to annihilate. Recent hacking incidents suggest that all this hardware might even have become obsolete. Can anyone be sure that a missile wouldn't be re-directed?

Recent disruptions highlight the societal myth of redemptive violence – as though burning Lake Street would bring racial justice or trying to capture/kill Congressmembers would result in changing the votes of others! The church has an obligation to speak with a moral voice as we work with transformative structural change.

Meanwhile the US is on course to waste \$1.7 Trillion on this madness, while one in six families with children in the US don't have enough to eat. And here in Minneapolis, we're identifying the tendency to use force without sufficient attention to its seriousness as a legacy that needs changing.

Read our resolution and consider whether we also encourage divestment from companies that produce nuclear weapons. As the rest of the world is doing. Time's Up to stop investing in killing. Learn how you can act.