

June 10, 2014

EMO statement on Reynolds High School shooting

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon laments today's tragedy of violence resulting in death, wounding and terror at Reynolds High School near Portland.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon calls upon all houses of worship to pray for the victims' families and loved ones, for the students and staff along with their families who experienced this horrific event, and for the perpetrator's family who are suffering now. We give thanks for the police, emergency professionals, and all those who helped to safely evacuate students and staff. We are grateful for their courage and quick response, making clear that we will not be paralyzed by fear in the face of sudden violence. We also acknowledge the importance of pastoral care and mental health services for all those impacted by this tragedy, and we give thanks for everyone who is part of the healing process.

Causes of these tragedies can be complex, including lack of resources to recognize and treat mental illness, easy availability of military-grade weapons, and the culture of violence permeating our society. We all deserve, especially our children, to live in a society free from the continuous occurrence of violent events such as this shooting. Now is the time for us to tackle these hard issues together, in order to foster healing and help prevent future tragedies.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, located at 1700 NE 132nd Ave. in Portland, will be having a prayer service for peace and healing for the students and staff of Reynolds High School and for our community tonight at 7 p.m. All are welcome and invited to attend this evening of prayer, scripture reading and song. For more information, contact Resurrection Lutheran at (503) 255-8772.

Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt

President of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board of Directors

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