



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

18 May, 2018

The Indonesian National Committee for the LWF
Pematangsiantar, North Sumatra
Indonesia

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lutheran churches of Indonesia,

I am greatly saddened by the news of the bombings of three churches in Surabaya, with death and injury to so many people. I am mindful that this happened on a Sunday when people were gathered for worship at St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Diponegoro Indonesian Christian Church (GKI), and Surabaya Central Pentecostal Church.

We pray for the family and friends of the 13 people killed, and we seek God's healing hand upon the many injured by the blasts. This is a time in which we seek God's comfort and consolation.

We pray for the Christian community in Surabaya, for the fear that has engulfed them in this tragedy in their neighborhoods. This is a time in which we seek God's protection and guidance.

And we pray for the whole church in Indonesia in this time of sorrow and even anger. This is a time in which we seek God's peace and wisdom.

On behalf of your brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I join all of you in the 13 Lutheran churches across Indonesia as you advocate for peace and harmony among all Indonesian people, especially between the different faith communities; as you call on your government to prevent radicalism and acts of terror in Indonesia and beyond; and as you find God's wisdom to guide you.

In this time of distress, I pray that we will all be uplifted in God's holy hands to be truthful and faithful in our convictions, that all may live together in the unity of humanity.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America