



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November 25, 2014

For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility. - Ephesians 2:14

A Pastoral Word on the Grand Jury Decision in Ferguson

In response to the grand jury decision in Ferguson, Missouri, I offer a word of prayer and hope. As a nation, we are struggling with and divided by the decision. It has affected so many of us in so many different ways. We want the assurance that all of this means something. We want to know that someone cares. Has not God created all of us to have inherent dignity, value and worth?

Despite the anger, violence and injustice connected with this sad and horrible tragedy, we should not abandon our hope or our neighbors. Let's join Michael Brown's father and call for peace. The reconciliation we have with God in Christ leads us to our neighbors with the hope that we can engage one another in a common cause.

We come together at the cross. It is our only hope. And, resting in the conviction that we are redeemed, we can begin the hard work of confronting the reality of systemic racism in our country.

Because of the cross, we have peace; we have hope; we are loved. I join with you in prayer for the Brown family, Officer Wilson and his family, the prosecutor and his family, the grand jurors and their families, the community of Ferguson and all who work for justice and peace.

In Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America