



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

October 2019

Pastoral letter from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to  
Pastor Izani Bruch, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile – IELCH  
Ms. Sonia Cobarruvias, Executive Director, Popular Education in Health, EPES  
Ecumenical leaders of the Network for Life and Dignity  
and the people of Chile

“Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.”  
*(Matthew 5:9)*

In recent days, I have received a copy of the letter from your Network to the President of Chile, Mr. Sebastián Piñera Echenique, expressing pastoral concern about recent actions taken by the government and your appeal for dialogue for peace, justice and democracy. I've also been watching the news about the popular discontent of the people of Chile expressed through protests, as well as the worrying repressive actions of the Chilean government.

I join you in deepest sorrow for the lives lost as a result of the violence as well as sadness about the effects of destruction which will affect the quality of life for the whole country. I wish to express my solidarity with you and the people of Chile and join your call for the rejection of violence and vandalism.

It is my understanding that the current strife is only the most recent manifestation of tensions and grievances which have been accumulating. It seems clear that these need to be addressed by the authorities with positive, concrete measures.

My prayers and those of members of our congregations are and will be with you as you seek dialogue and the restoration of empathy and trust among all sectors of the population. Our prayers will include the government, churches and religious communities, as you seek a positive resolution of the current situation.

Your Sister in Christ,

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