

April 16, 2008

Dear Rostered Leaders of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA:

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ.

The recent public controversy concerning the Rev. Jeremiah Wright has created a distinct opportunity and a compelling incentive for our congregations to enter thoughtfully and prayerfully into deeper conversation about the destructive impact of racism and privilege in our society.

Since the inception of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we have had a bold public witness to our commitment to work against forces of racism and privilege, and yet the grim reality is that they continue to dominate our life as a church and our general social interactions.

Attached to this letter you will find two brief documents: 1) an open letter written by me to our sisters and brothers in the Chicago Metropolitan Association - Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, and 2) a resolution recently adopted by the Church Council of the ELCA.

After consultation with our own synod council, I would like to urge each of you to dedicate a portion of your worship on **Trinity Sunday, May 18, 2008**, to prayer and preaching on the subject of racism in our world, to call for repentance of our own racism, and to explore possibilities for further congregational engagement with this pervasive problem.

We will be directly addressing this matter in one session of our annual synod assembly this June, and I pray that from this new beginning we may begin to see a clear path toward becoming more faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

The Rev. Wayne N. Miller  
Bishop