

November 2007



Dear Friends in Christ,

This month, your congregations' offering towards Mission Support is by helping work for peace and non-violence. Here in Minneapolis our congregations have shared the sorrow of Richfield Lutheran at the murder of one of their members, Katherine Olson, the daughter of Pastor Rolf Olson.

I want you to know that you are part of a church that is working to end violence, and uses a portion of your offering to do so. Lutherans recently gathered Nov. 16-17 for "***Living Faithfully in a Violent World: Congregations and Community Working Together to End Violence.***" This training event was supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and hosted by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA.

Loretta Horton, on the staff of the ELCA Church in Society Unit says "School shootings, police brutality, domestic violence and child abuse continue to characterize our violent society. No community is immune." A primary goal of the training event, Horton stated, is to facilitate congregations and communities collaborating to end violence. "We want to provide an opportunity for Lutherans to discuss strategies for violence prevention and intervention, and to continue the ELCA's long-term process of working against violence," Horton continued. "We will engage in Bible study, spiritual and theological reflection on what the Bible says about how we, sisters and brothers, relate to one another and break down barriers that contribute to a culture of violence."

A team of experts in violence prevention and conflict resolution facilitated workshops that provided practical information on anti-violence programs and ministry development. Workshop topics ranged from raising nonviolent children to mobilizing congregations, from family support as a prevention strategy to media and violence.

On behalf of all who will enjoy a somewhat safer world because of your generosity, **thank you!**

In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Heather Hammond, Bishop's Associate