



East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

March 11, 2024

Dear East Central Synod of Wisconsin,

Earlier this month, my colleagues and I in the [ELCA Conference of Bishops](#) met for a time of connection, worship, and shared ministry in Itasca, Illinois. A full summary of our time together [is linked here](#) and included in the news release below. One of the most important items on the agenda included drafting and delivering a letter to President Biden as well as issuing a statement calling for a permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza. You can read [the letter here](#) and the [statement here](#).

This year, the months of March and April bring holy days for people of many faiths around the world and in the land we call holy—Ramadan, Holy Week, Easter, Passover. With people of faith around the world we pray and long for peace and for the ability of all people to live out their faith practices in safety.

Part of living out our faith is engaging in the work of advocacy. This week I will be sending a letter to the offices of lawmakers who represent the territory of our synod: Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, and representatives Mike Gallagher, Glenn Grothman, Tom Tiffany, and Derrick Van Orden – as well as following up with President Biden – asking them to embrace this statement and exert their influence by calling for a cease-fire. I encourage you to take a moment and communicate your own thoughts to your representatives as well as President Biden. You may use the Conference of Bishops letter to President Biden, include the statement, or craft your own.

Regardless of one's political position, I am hopeful that one thing we can agree on is an end to violence. I ask for your help. Let us share prayers and more than our prayers; joining with people of faith all over the world to be a voice for peace. You can find your representatives at this link: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and a sample newsletter article is included at the end of the email for you to extend the invitation to advocacy and prayer in your congregations and ministry settings.

Sincerely, in the name of Christ,

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright