

July 24, 2020

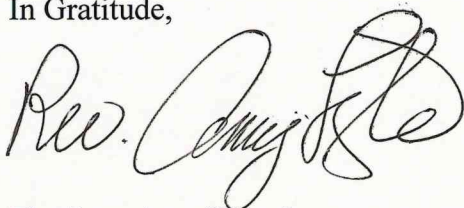
Dear Dr. Wang,

Please receive this letter in support and thanksgiving for the August Peace Event, this year marking 75 years since the devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki through nuclear weapons. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of which St. John's is a part, we believe God calls people of faith to work for peace in our world and between nations: "In spite of human enmity—toward God, among humans, and with the rest of creation—God continues to work through people, their communities and structures, to make earthly peace possible," (ELCA Social Statement for Peace in Our World, 1995). We repent of the sin that has caused so much loss of human life, particularly in the US decision to use nuclear weapons at the end of World War II.

Part of our work as citizens of the world and of God's kingdom includes supporting the work of and advocating alongside those seeking an end to militarization and nuclear armament. We are proud that St. John's has been the site for the August Peace Event in years past and look forward to a time when we might host it again in the future. It is perhaps too much to hope that the need for such calls for peace would in our lifetimes become unnecessary. But as followers of Jesus, whom we know as the Prince of Peace, we pray one day for an end to war and violence in all its forms.

We ask for God's blessing on this event and your work for the sake of our world.

In Gratitude,



The Rev. Amy Kienzle  
Associate Pastor  
St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA