



The Lutheran Church in Great Britain

Bishop: The Rt Rev'd Jana Jeruma-Grinberga

Bishop Karl Sigurbjörnson
The Pastoral Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Iceland

Sunday, 25 April 2010

Dear Bishop Sigurbjörnson, dear brothers and sisters in Christ

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:12-17)

Greetings to you and the Pastoral Synod meeting of the ELCI from the Lutheran Church in Great Britain. At our own Annual Synod meeting in London on Saturday 24 April, this marvellous reading from Paul's letter was read in our Holy Communion service, and underpinned our thoughts and discussions. These inspired words challenge us all to examine the ways in which we live in harmony with one another, and to take seriously our calling to be a church where the peace of Christ rules, where brothers and sisters care for one another, where praise and thankfulness resound.

I am very sorry that unavoidable circumstances have prevented the delegations from LWF, as well as from interested churches, being with you this week. The volcanic eruption, which has disrupted business and commerce, as well as people's leisure

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain is a member church of the Lutheran World Federation
LCiGB | 27 Tavistock Square | London | WC1H 9HH
T: +44 (0) 20 3384 1928
www.lutheranchurch.co.uk
email: bishop@lutheranchurch.co.uk

plans, has also broken into our plans to express our fellowship and to explore the complex themes around debt and its implications for individuals, governments and churches. Dr Noko and others have called this a kairos moment for churches: a time to examine and consider our response as Christians to the scandal of indebtedness which is affecting the lives, health and development of so many people worldwide. In addition, our calling as Christians also challenges us to join our prayers, our actions and our witness together in community, to support each other and to proclaim the shalom that is found in Christ alone. Therefore I pray that by God's grace our meeting will be able to take place in the near future; and that Lutheran churches globally will increasingly find ways to work together and to speak out for justice.

On behalf of our church, I wish you a constructive and useful meeting, and God's blessing on all the proceedings.

Rt Rev'd Jana Jeruma-Grinberga

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain is a member church of the Lutheran World Federation
LCiGB | 27 Tavistock Square | London | WC1H 9HH
T: +44 (0) 20 3384 1928
www.lutheranchurch.co.uk
email: bishop@lutheranchurch.co.uk