In the Gospel according to Luke we hear the angels say to the shepherds,

Glory to God IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, and peace to God's people ON EARTH.

At this time of the year, perhaps our longing for peace is even more acute. We know the world isn't right. Nevertheless, we wait for and trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The angels proclaimed, "Peace on Earth. Good tidings we bring." We pray for peace in our world and in our communities. Every week we take time during worship to greet one another with the message of peace. We reach out, grasping hands across pews, across the aisle. Some may walk to other areas of the sanctuary to give a message of peace to a neighbor or a visitor. "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you." We share the peace, the love of God, and as we do, we know that God has reached from heaven to earth and, in the Prince of Peace, is sharing God's peace with us. In this season and all year round, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Galuon la Eaton

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America