



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

October 2019

Pastoral Message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to
Bishop Ben Chun Wa Chang, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Lutheran Federation
Hong Kong Christian Council
and all those living in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Like many around the world, we – members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – have been witnesses to the recent and ongoing protest demonstrations in Hong Kong. We recognize how these have come in response to several decisions by the local authorities, together with ongoing concerns about the future of the territory and their implications for rights, liberties and governance.

I understand that members of the Christian community in Hong Kong hold varying views on the situation, some supportive of the demonstrators while others oppose their activities. I can certainly understand the difficult choices church members may face when looking at what had initially been peaceful protests to the eruption of the more recent violent confrontations. I know that last month, the 72 Protestant and Catholic churches all over Hong Kong came together for an event, “Pray for reconciliation, healing, and a way out for Hong Kong”. I would like to add our voice to your prayers, and so,

on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I offer my prayers for you and the people of Hong Kong in this time of great turmoil and uncertainty. I pray that peace may prevail in our hearts, thoughts and actions. I pray for wise decisions and choices. I pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace us with the grace and mercy of God, even as we pray with St. Paul that we may “approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

May the God of peace bring comfort to you and uplift you in your witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America