



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

August 27, 2020

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It seems a bit surreal – two days before our assembly as you can imagine our synod staff and leadership and I are busily putting final touches on preparations for Saturday. And 100 miles to our east, Kenosha has become the latest flashpoint in our nation's continuing turmoil with our legacy of racial disparity and injustice.

It hits close to home, not simply for all of us as fellow residents of the state, but for me personally. For 17 years my service as bishop included Kenosha. We lived in southeast Wisconsin for 29 years. I weep for what's happening now.

My friend, former colleague, and our neighboring bishop, Bishop Paul Erickson, has written a pastoral letter to the congregations and people of that synod. He expresses well what needs to be said at this moment. We will gather at our assembly under the theme "We Are Church Together," and in this moment, we are church together with Paul and the people of that synod. Please read what he has written:

<https://milwaukee-synod.org/blog/2020/08/25/a-pastoral-letter-on-these-troubling-times/>

And pray that we may muster the courage, insight, and creativity to look deeply into our souls, and the souls of our churches and country, and seek to heal the wounds and correct the injustices that seem so intractable.

Lord, Have Mercy...

PETER ROGNESS  
Interim Bishop