

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office of the Bishop

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Dear friends,

As we live into this season of preparation for the incarnation of God's Word, let us be mindful of the pain, suffering, fear and loneliness that many in the world are living with on a daily basis. The global recession has sown fear and anxiety among people facing the loss of jobs, savings, and their homes, and those who are now coping with diminished dreams and the means to realize them. There are others, though, who are dealing with a far more devastating loss: children who have fallen victim to an unrelenting stream of violence that has gripped Chicago and surrounding communities this year. As we anticipate the coming of Christ and his message of peace and reconciliation, let our hearts hold in prayer the families of the children who have been killed, and the persons responsible for their deaths, and their families as well. We and they are all children of God and in need of God's grace and mercy.



CELEBRATING
AND SHARING
OUR FAITH

Accompanying this message is a list of names of the children who have died, compiled by Deacon Jackie Lynn, executive director of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, along with a resource list for responding to violence. I encourage you to remember the children by including them in the prayers of the people in your Advent liturgies and programs. As I said in my message for the All Souls Requiem for the Children November 2, we as a church are called to work with all parts of the community to stop the killing. We must offer an alternative to the allure of violence, a vision of community in Christ which leads to abundant life and a future of hope. The Lord Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus his friend. He also called people into unimaginable new life. Let us be the voice of this light in the world.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeffrey D. Lee
Bishop of Chicago