On August 30, 2002, The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wrote the following:

"In recent days, leaders of the United States government have talked openly about the possibility of a pre-emptive strike against the government of Iraq and its leader, Saddam Hussein. As presiding bishop of the ELCA, I am deeply concerned about any such action. In the 1995 ELCA social statement, "For peace in God's World," we said that, as Christians, 'the love of our neighbor obligates us to act to prevent wars and seek alternatives to them.' This is a time to stop the use of hostile rhetoric and verbal threats, and to focus again on diplomacy.

While we are fully aware of the potential threat posed by the government of Iraq and its leader, I believe it is wrong for the US to seek to overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein with military action. Morally, I oppose it because I know a war with Iraq will have great consequences for the people of Iraq, who have already suffered through years of war and economic sanctions. I do not believe such a war can be justified under the historic principles of 'just war. . .

I call upon members of our congregations to be fervent in prayer, engaged in conversation with one another and with our leaders. The ELCA encourages participation by all people of faith in the affairs of government. Our church has developed and is expanding a practice of engaging in moral deliberation on difficult social issues. . . During these discussions it is important for all of us to listen to and respect the views of everyone. We must oppose racist and enemy images that dehumanize, deny the love of God for all people and do not help in resolving conflict.

In the final analysis, we must stand unequivocally for peace. 'Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.' (Romans 14:19)."

In the response to Bishop Hanson's call and stance for peace, we'd like to invite you to a service of prayer for peace on Thursday, February 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

From,

Ann Pederson, Chair of Moral Values
Paul Rohde, Campus Pastor

"O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release, till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace." From "With One Voice. . ."