

July 21, 2008

Dear Partner in Service:

We are living in very difficult economic times. Many low income families are struggling to feed their families and put gas in their cars. Even middle class families are feeling the pressure. The income wealth gap between White families and Non-White families is the largest in the history of the United States. How do we as a church respond to issues relating to poverty and wealth?

The Poverty Ministries Networking Program is sponsoring Lazarus is Still Waiting at the Gate: An ELCA Conference on Poverty and Wealth, November 21-23, 2008 in Atlanta, GA at the Lutheran Theological Center on the campus of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary.

Our keynote speaker is Meizhu Liu, author of the Color of Wealth: The Story behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide. We will also have special presentations by Bishop Julian Gordy, Southeastern Synod; Rev. Michael Russell, Charlotte Williams, and Rev. David Billings, authors of Lazarus at the Gate: Writings and Reflections on Poverty and Wealth. Workshops will focus on developing poverty eradication programs and other economic and social justice issues. We will also explore the connections between poverty, wealth, race and class.

Worship and theological reflection will be central to our time together.

We hope you can join us for what will surely be a spirit fill weekend. Registration is \$250 and includes lodging, meals, printed resources and transportation to the Lutheran Center from the hotel. Participants will also receive a copy of the Color of Wealth and Lazarus at the Gate.

For more information, I can be contacted at 1-800/638-3522, ext. 2404 or Loretta.Horton@elca.org.

Hope to see you in November.

In Christ Service,

Loretta E. Horton
Director for Poverty Ministries Networking