

April 3, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Friend in Christ,

A little over a year ago, a letter was sent over my signature that expressed the support of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the ministry of The Reverend Dave Krueckeberg, ordained minister of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and chaplain for Racetrack Ministries, Inc., who had in recent years been granted open access to serve the workers and families who live on the backstretch of the race tracks of the Chicago area. This letter comes to you expressing much disappointment that Rev. Krueckeberg has still not been granted access to serve the people and families of those racetrack communities in accord with the manner in which he previously served and ministered to their needs.

Recently, it came to my attention that upon the death of one of the workers to whom Rev. Krueckeberg had ministered, he was denied access to minister to the worker's family. This is difficult to understand and to accept. We live in a country where religious freedoms are cherished and are to be exercised with accompanying freedom. We have young men and women who are dying in battle around this world trying to gain for others the very freedoms you have denied this family in our own backyard. To deny ministry access in time of spiritual and emotional need is to deny the people of this country the very civil and religious rights we so proudly aim to preserve in this land.

Therefore this letter is being written as an encouragement to you to support the ***Petition in Support of the Ministry of the Rev. David Krueskeberg*** in the hope that by so doing a strong and clear message may be sent to the racetrack owners so they may acknowledge the wrong that has occurred in this matter and work to rectify this situation, and those like it, by again granting Rev. Krueckeberg open access to minister to these families and their needs. The petition sends an important message to the racing community that such actions are unacceptable in our society. Without open access, it is essentially impossible for Rev. Krueckeberg properly to minister to the needs of this community in a manner necessary for the spiritual well being of the people for whom he provides pastoral ministry, including offering the Sacraments, providing pastoral counseling, and developing the kinds of relationships necessary for sound pastoral care.

Given the faithful service provided by Rev. Krueckeberg and the essential ministry offered by him to the people of the racetrack community, it is my hope that you will support this cause in the hope that access of Rev. Krueckeberg to the people he serves will once again be granted to him. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Warmly and Sincerely in Christian Love,

***Jerry Kieschnick***

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
GBK/az