

**Resolution #4 – Revisions proposed to the Social Statement on Abortion of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

**Submitted by Wayne Schlotfeldt, St. Peters Lutheran church, Brunsville**

**Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America is united with all human beings and the whole creation because God has created us and all that exists (ELCA Social Statement on Abortion); and**

**Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America believes that the Bible is the authoritative source and norm for Christian faith and life (ELCA Social Statement on Abortion); and**

**Whereas, God values every life as precious as stated in Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations”; and**

**Whereas, the value of a human life is not determined by another human but by God; and**

**Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America believes that all human lives, independent of their race, age, location, viability, social standing or desirability, are equally valued and loved by God; and**

**Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the teachings of Martin Luther, who was prepared to give his life as he relentlessly challenged non-Biblical teachings and practices of his own church, the Roman Catholic Church; and**

**Whereas, God through the Bible, has given us laws, morals and values that may not coincide with the that accepted by society, yet they should be adhered to in the face of societal pressures. Standing up for what is right and good in the face of persecution was shown to us by the Disciples of Jesus as they abided by His commandments in the face of Roman society; and**

**Whereas, modern scientific research confirms that at the moment of fertilization, a baby's genetic makeup is complete and it is a unique human life, with its own DNA, separate from its mother's and father's; and**

**Whereas, in the United States of America, over 800,000 unborn children are aborted each year, approximately 19% of pregnancies end in abortion, with approximately of 98% of these babies killed for reasons NOT related to incest, rape or threatening the life of the mother (Guttmacher Institute); and**

**Whereas, the deep regret of having an abortion keeps many women from finding a loving relationship with the Lord, approximately 75% of women and men have no idea there is help to recover from the scars and anguish that they feel from having an abortion and so many counselors have no idea how to address these wounds (She Found His Grace Abortion Recovery); and**

**Whereas, a child of African American descent is five times more likely to be aborted than a Caucasian child, creating a massively disproportionate loss of lives in the African American race (Guttmacher Institute); and**

**Whereas, if we as Christians do not follow the teachings of Jesus, if we pick and choose from the Bible what we want to follow, we are in fact not following Jesus but asking Jesus to follow us; therefore, be it**

**Resolved, that the Western Iowa Synod memorialize the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to review, revise and strengthen the Social Statement of Abortion to provide protection and support to unborn and born children, the mothers and fathers of the children born and the women and men who have suffered from the death of a child from abortion by;**

- 1) Encouraging our youth that marriage is the appropriate context for sexual intercourse, that the pursuit of sexual gratification without commitment in a relationship is not what God intended for us; and**
- 2) Reaffirming the incalculable worth of each unique life, that we are created in His image for a special purpose, and that each life should be safeguarded and protected; and**
- 3) Growing our Church's efforts to support adoption of children by loving parents giving more options to those women facing unexpected or unwanted pregnancies; and**
- 4) Increasing our Church's outreach to provide post-birth services and assistance to those in need so that all may grow to know the love of God; and**
- 5) Strengthening the responsibility that the fathers of unborn children take a positive and active role in the caring for, raising of, and spiritual development of their children; and**
- 6) Increasing our Church's outreach to women and men who suffer from the pain of an abortion, by providing education on how to counsel and care for those healing from this wound and to support organizations who provide this care so that they can become closer to the Lord**

**The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommend its defeat.**