



EASTERN SYNOD Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

MISSION AFFIRMATION

In faithfulness to the Lord of the Church and in the spirit of the [Evangelical Declaration](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, this synod is committed to advancing the mission of God in our time and place. With the *Evangelical Declaration* “we believe, teach and confess that the Holy Spirit calls and gathers the whole church into the mission of God, which takes seriously both the reality of the world and the reality of Christ, with equal care.”

We celebrate and rejoice in the gifts which God has given us to carry out our mission in the world today. We believe that the world is God’s good creation and that God has called us to responsible stewardship within the world we inhabit. We gladly affirm both our heritage in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and the challenges to which God calls us in the present. Where we see need, we will take action. We will use our gifts to be the people of God for others.

The twentieth century has been a century of tremendous change and the twenty-first promises to be even more intense. Therefore we commit ourselves to work, think, pray, study, and consult in order to discern what God is calling us to be and to do in this time and place.

We are an evangelical Lutheran church which gathers to hear the Word of God, and to celebrate the Sacraments of the Gospel. We commit ourselves to continue to centre our life together on worship of the Triune God. We will be faithful to scripture and our Lutheran heritage within the concrete realities of life in our varied communities. We will communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that his message is heard as Good News for the oppressed and broken.

The whole church is the mission of God, and every Christian is called into mission. Therefore we commit ourselves to equip each congregation and each member to be people in mission and to live as faithful disciples. We will make full use of the resources which God has

given us. We will work joyfully with our ecumenical partners.

The church is God’s mission to the whole society and the whole person. We commit ourselves to solidarity with those who are treated unjustly and to caring for those who live in brokenness. We will work together with any and all who share our concern for wholeness and justice, especially with ecumenical and interfaith coalitions and organizations which focus on peace, justice, and health.

The church has been broken and disunited even as Christ has prayed for unity among his people. We commit ourselves to work towards healing the brokenness of the church. We will work for Christian unity and for understanding among all people of good will. We will be a constructive and creative part of Lutheranism in Canada. We will seek ways to co-operate with whomever will cooperate with us.

The purpose of the evangelical Lutheran church is to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to communicate clearly with one another and with society. We commit ourselves to openness and trust. We will listen to the voices of our church and society, and respond to what we hear.

We trust in the providence of God and we believe that God will send us both the gifts that we need to carry out the mission of Christ and opportunities to exercise those gifts. We commit ourselves to respond faithfully whenever and wherever God calls us into mission. Trusting in God’s grace, we will not seek first our own safety and survival, but we will do what is necessary to communicate the Gospel wherever we are.

*Adopted by the Eastern Synod in Convention,
June 18, 1998*