

STATEMENT OF MISSION AND PURPOSE

The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world. To participate in God's mission, this Synod as a part of the Church shall:

- *Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.*
- *Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.*
- *Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.*
- *Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.*
- *Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.*
- *Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.¹*

1. ELCA Constitution for Synods, Chapter 6, S6.01., S6.02.

NOTE: This Statement of Mission and Purpose is the same for all three expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Churchwide, Synods, and Congregations.