

# **“PROTESTant Faith: Insistent on LOVE”**

**Overview:** This campaign aims to promote a vision of faith centered on LOVE, inclusivity, and social responsibility, standing against divisive ideologies that undermine the core message of the Gospel.

**Purpose:** Amplifying Christ's message of LOVE, mercy, and hope to bring transformational healing.

**Campaign Call to Action:** Join us in embodying a faith that amplifies LOVE, justice, and the common good. Together, we can be a gleaming example of God's LOVE in a world longing for hope and connection.

## **5 Key Affirmations of Faith**

### **1. Dignity for All:**

We affirm EVERY person is created in the image of God, deserving of LOVE, respect and dignity.

**Rejection:** We reject notions that promote exclusion or superiority based on race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, sexuality, belief or any other reason.

#### **Actions:**

- Treat every person with respect and dignity
- Challenge yourself to identify the image of God in every person
- “Go public” in affirming the dignity of all with what you wear, buy, who you vote for, how you communicate on social media, and every aspect of your public life

### **2. Justice**

We affirm our commitment to seek justice for the marginalized and oppressed, following Christ's call to LOVE and serve the least among us.

**Rejection:** We reject complacency and quietism in the face of injustice and harm.

**Action:**

- Resist the temptation to stay silent
- Read the Prophets and Jesus through the lens of God's liberating action
- Identify instances of injustice or harm in your community
- Accompany peoples directly impacted by instances of injustice and harm
- Locate and connect with local organizations seeking justice, especially those working for their own liberation
- Speak with elected officials
- Participate in peaceful protests
- Use your privilege for the sake of others

**3. Diverse Community:**

We affirm that the Church is called to be a diverse community that reflects God's LOVE through life-giving relationships and mutual support.

**Rejection:** We reject divisive rhetoric that fosters isolation or creates barriers among God's people.

**Action:**

- Lean into empathy, compassion, and mercy
- Find opportunities to listen and learn from those living in fear
- LOVE others the way they want to be treated
- "Call in/out" those who engage in dehumanizing speech or actions
- Learn more how to "call in" or "call out"

**4. Respectful Dialogue:**

We affirm the necessity of respectful dialogue that encourages LOVE, understanding, accountability, and reconciliation within and beyond our communities.

**Rejection:** We reject hostility and polarization that stifle meaningful conversations about faith and life.

**Action:**

- Start by getting to know individuals and their self-interests
- Listen with curiosity even when you disagree
- Find opportunities to engage with others across difference
- Learn more about respectful dialogue
- Do not engage if the possibility for harm is too high
- Practice self-care and prayer when this gets too heavy or difficult

**5. A Hopeful Future:**

We affirm the promise of a hopeful future in God's abundant kin-dom, where justice, LOVE, and peace prevail for all creation.

**Rejection:** We reject despair and fear that lead us to scarcity mindsets which put the self, or certain groups of people, at the center of the world.

**Action:**

- Make sure that Jesus is at the center of your faith
- Pray for the inbreaking of God's kin-dom and participate in that work
- Participate in the “Pray without Ceasing” movement
- Give to your favorite charity, movement, or cause
- Find reasons to celebrate with others

**Grounding Scriptures:**

LOVE God, LOVE others: *Matthew 5:43-48, Matthew 22:36-40, Mark 12: 28-31, Luke 6:27-36, Luke 10:25-28, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:13-14*

Breaking down Walls: *Mark 5:21-42, John 4:1-42, John 8:1-11*

Lost and Found: *Luke 15*

Justice: *Isaiah 58, Micah 6:8, Amos 5:6-24, James 2:1-17, Matthew 25:31-45*

**For further education:**

- [ELCA Conference of Bishops Emphasizes the Need to Speak the Truth](#)
- [For Religious Liberty and Against Christian Nationalism — Wisconsin Council of Churches](#)
- [ELCA Social Statements](#)
- [ELCA Social Messages](#)
- [ELCA Justice Portal](#)

**Possible Partners:**

[Love Is Greater – OldLutheran](#)

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**A Collaborative Effort by**

Bishop Felix Malpica - LaCrosse Area Synod

Bishop Sue Briner - Southwestern Texas Synod

Bishop Becca Middeke-Conlin - Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew - New Jersey Synod

Bishop Meggan Manlove - Northwest Intermountain Synod

Bishop Martin Halom - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Bishop Lee Miller II - Upstate New York Synod

Bishop Jennifer Nagel - Minneapolis Area Synod

Bishop Nathan Piphon - New England Synod

Bishop Scott Johnson - Nebraska Synod