Resolution #3, Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

WHEREAS in 2016, the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA affirmed this church’s commitment to prevent gun violence\(^1\)
  1. to continue to address – in worship, education, and ongoing moral deliberation – the broad issues of violence in society,
  2. to affirm that we do not reject gun ownership or recreational activities associated with guns to be morally wrong,
  3. to encourage communication with members of Congress and state legislators
    a. this church’s long-standing support for managing gun purchases, including the requirement of background checks for all gun sales including private sales and
    b. this church’s sense of urgency for the renewal or replacement of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban; and

WHEREAS we believe we may disagree when it comes to some specific actions, but we also believe that we can declare that gun violence in our culture is a-wrong for which effective solutions must be sought and put into place, and that this is certainly never more true than in incidents that have brought violence to our children in their schools; and

WHEREAS the prayers of the faithful are often intended by God to be answered not by the changes God makes in accordance with our desires but by the changes those who are praying make in accordance with God’s desires; and

WHEREAS God calls us to love people above things, to love others as we love ourselves, and to love God by responding in love to the needs of those who are hurting; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA as well as the members of synod congregations in their daily lives address – in worship, education, and ongoing moral deliberation – the broad issues of violence in society; and be it

RESOLVED, that we call on our elected leaders at both the state and federal levels to do what is theirs to do by
  1. acting now to address gun violence in the nation, in our communities, and in our schools,
  2. creating and supporting legislation that will keep weapons of war out of the hands of those who want to cause harm to innocent people,
  3. creating and supporting legislation that will control the manufacture and sale of weapons not used for hunting and sport, or for use other than law enforcement and military purposes, and
  4. supporting measures that consider the mental health of those seeking to purchase weapons, and also provide and fund an effective network of mental health care for those in such need;

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod in Assembly, call on all members within this synod to be civil, respectful and submissive to the Spirit of Christ in discussing difficult and potentially divisive issues with sisters and brothers in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Roger Dykstra
Deacon Pam Larabee-Zierath
Rev. Sarah Goettsch
Christopher Maxwell
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Adopted

\(^1\) CWA2016.pdf  CA16.02.031