

## **Memorial to the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA On Deepening the ELCA's Commitment to Climate Justice**

WHEREAS, God created heaven and earth and called creation good, entrusting humanity with the care of the earth (Genesis 1:1–31; 2:15);<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, Scripture affirms that “the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1), grounding our call to care for creation in our relationship to God as Creator;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, through its social teaching, affirms that care for creation is a matter of faith, justice, and responsibility to future generations;<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS, the ELCA’s social message *Earth’s Climate Crisis* names this moment as a kairos time—an urgent and opportune moment calling for faithful, decisive action;<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are already being experienced most acutely by communities who are most vulnerable and have contributed least to the crisis, raising urgent questions of justice, equity, and neighbor-love;<sup>4</sup> and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches has launched the Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action (2025–2035), inviting churches into a shared “pilgrimage of repentance, transformation, and hope” and calling for action rooted in justice, peace, and the integrity of creation;<sup>5</sup> and

WHEREAS, many ELCA congregations, synods, and partner organizations, including Lutherans Restoring Creation, are engaged in this work and seeking stronger coordination, support, and shared direction across the whole church; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly memorialize the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to deepen and strengthen the church’s commitment to climate justice as a matter of faith, public witness, and care for our neighbors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this memorial invite the Churchwide Organization to engage the Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action as an opportunity for shared learning, advocacy, and coordinated action across the church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this memorial encourage the Churchwide Organization, in consultation with synods and ministry partners, to expand leadership, coordination, and communication around climate justice efforts across the ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this memorial encourage the development and support of staff and resources dedicated to equip congregations and synods for faithful and effective engagement in care for creation and climate justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this memorial encourage the identification and sharing of resources, practices, and opportunities that support congregations, synods, and ministries in responding to the climate crisis in ways that are contextually appropriate and grounded in the church's social teaching; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this memorial be forwarded to the Church Council and the next Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for consideration.

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## Footnotes

1. The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE).
2. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* (1993).
3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Earth's Climate Crisis* (2023).
4. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*.
5. World Council of Churches, *Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action (2025–2035)*, <https://www.oikoumene.org>