

ACELC Resolution 14-01
Adopted by the Congregations of the ACELC
February 27, 2014



To encourage the congregations of the ACELC and the Associate Members of the ACELC to seek out the true Marks of the Church when choosing to worship and receive the Lord's Supper within the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

WHEREAS, it has become clear that the doctrinal unity and unity of practice have become a mixture of both orthodox and heterodox theology and practice within The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and

WHEREAS, the people of God need to hear the Word of God taught in all its truth and purity and need to receive the Sacraments administered in accord with Christ's institution, and

WHEREAS, listening to false doctrine in teaching is harmful to the Christian, and receiving the Lord's Supper in the company of heterodox believers compromises the confession of faith given at that altar and the theological integrity of the orthodox communicant, and

WHEREAS, the congregations of the ACELC and its associate members have the opportunity to give clear witness to our Synod that such reception of the rightly taught Word and the rightly administered Sacraments is critical to the life of all Christians and is not to be taken lightly, and

WHEREAS, many of our ACELC pastors and laymen already must choose where they will worship and where they will receive the Lord's Supper on the basis of the faithfulness of the particular called shepherd of a congregation within the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod either for the choosing of a home congregation or when traveling, and

WHEREAS, such Godly decisions honor the Word of God, hold in high regard the importance of the Marks of the Church, and serve to build the individual Christian's faith using pure gold, silver, and precious stones (1 Cor. 3:12), therefore be it

RESOLVED, that whenever possible, the member congregations and associate members of the ACELC be encouraged to exercise sound theological judgment, within the congregations of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, respecting where and from whom they hear God's Word preached and taught, and where and from whom they receive the Lord's Supper, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we deplore the necessity of needing to make such choices within our own Synod and yearn for the day when the issues of doctrine and practice are truly resolved among us, and unity is restored in the spirit of the Augsburg Confession:

"After removal and correction of things either side has understood differently, these matters may be settled and brought back to one simple truth and Christian concord. Then we may embrace and maintain the future of one pure and true religion under one Christ, doing battle under Him [Psalm 24:8], living in unity and concord in the one Christian Church." (Preface, Augsburg Confession, 3)

ACELC Member Congregations:

- Holy Cross Lutheran, Albany OR
- Holy Cross Lutheran, Kansas City, MO
- Good Shepherd Lutheran, Lincoln, NE
- Grace Lutheran, Grand Island, NE
- Trinity Lutheran, Layton, UT
- Trinity Lutheran, Austin, TX
- Grace Lutheran, Lexington, MO
- Messiah Lutheran, Vicksburg, MS
- Trinity Lutheran, Norborne, MO
- Trinity Lutheran, Fredericktown, MO
- Zion Lutheran, Gravelton, MO
- Grace Lutheran, De Soto, MO
- Mount Calvary Lutheran, Excelsior Springs, MO
- Immanuel Lutheran, Eagle, NE
- Our Redeemer Lutheran, Cedar Falls, IA
- Good Shepherd Lutheran, Brandon, MS
- Augsburg Lutheran, Shawnee, KS
- Our Savior Lutheran, Stevensville, MT
- Trinity Lutheran, Kearney, MO
- Peace Evangelical Lutheran (UAC), Chehalis, WA
- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, McMinnville, TN
- Saint Paul Lutheran, Holstein, NE
- Zion Lutheran, Juniata, NE
- Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran, Waterbury, CT

ACELC Resolution 14-02
Adopted by the Congregations of the ACELC
February 27, 2014



To encourage pastors of ACELC congregations to exercise judgment and theological discernment when admitting communicants to the Lord's Supper in order to retain the confessional integrity of the Lord's Supper.

WHEREAS, the pastors are stewards of God's mysteries (I Corinthians 4:1-2) who are duty bound to obey God rather than men, and will have to give account for the souls in their care (Hebrews 13:17), and

WHEREAS, The Augsburg Confessions, Article 24 (Of the Mass), Paragraphs 5-8, say:

⁵ The people are accustomed to receive the Sacrament together, insofar as they are fit to do so. This likewise increases the reverence and devotion of public worship, ⁶ for none are admitted unless they are first heard and examined. ⁷ The people are also admonished concerning the value and use of the Sacrament and the great consolation it offers to anxious consciences, that they may learn to believe in God and ask for and expect whatever is good from God. ⁸ Such worship pleases God, and such use of the Sacrament nourishes devotion to God. [Tappert, AC XXIV, para. 5-8]. And

WHEREAS, the pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) are, by virtue of the synod's own self-understanding, in fellowship with one another, and this normally indicates that pastors and instructed members of congregations of the LCMS are welcome to one another's altars for communion, and

WHEREAS, such arrangements of men with one another do not absolve the pastor from dutifully welcoming to the altar those who are worthy and well prepared in both repentance and faith, and withholding communion from those who refuse to repent and do better, or who do not agree with our confession of faith in every article of Christian doctrine even though they continue to hold membership in his own congregation, in this synod or its congregations, and

WHEREAS, the existing practice among some LCMS congregations has been to shorten the course of instruction for both youth and especially for adults so that a comprehensive understanding of the full body of Christian doctrine and especially the theology of the Lord's Supper, is not always received or required, and

WHEREAS, such shortened courses of instruction often result in members unable to rightly understand and confess the full body of Christian doctrine and especially the theology of the Lord's Supper, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the pastors of the ACELC be encouraged to exercise sound theological and pastoral judgment with respect to those who wish to commune at their altars both among their own membership and especially also with respect to those who are visiting from other LCMS congregations to ascertain, to the best of their ability, those they may commune rightly and those who may not commune without drawing God's judgment on themselves or whose participation would compromise the integrity of our confession of faith.

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