

ADOPTED BY NorthWest Lower Michigan Synod Assembly on Sat. May 15, 2021:
Responding to the Climate Emergency

Whereas, in 1993 with the Caring for Creation¹ social statement, we, in the ELCA realized the urgency was already “widespread and serious, according to the preponderance of evidence from scientists worldwide [of] dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide” from the burning of fossil fuels, and that “action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our children's children”; and

Whereas, the most recent report by the 2019 U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change claims continued greenhouse gas emissions will cause “long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems”; and

Whereas, while actions of individuals and congregations responding to the climate emergency may well serve as significant prophetic and anticipatory symbols; only bioregional, national and international regulations, policies and corporate commitments could adequately reduce the pace of climate change and lead to equitable means of adaptation; therefore be it

Resolved, that this Synod declares that the climate emergency is a spiritual and moral crisis that calls for an urgent, faith-rooted response similar to the demands for justice and mercy voiced by the Hebrew prophets, by Jesus and the New Testament writers; and be it further

Resolved, that this Synod through the office of the Bishop, the Publicly Engaged Church Table, the Environmental Stewardship Task Force and its rostered leaders be encouraged to publicly and consistently advocate for those policies, corporate practices and governmental cooperation that would slow the pace of climate change and promote equitable adaptations; and be it further

Resolved that the congregations of this Synod be encouraged to commit themselves to learning, prayer and repentance leading to faithful environmental stewardship and care for those most affected by climate change.

Submitted by: John Burow, John Schleicher, Ellen Schoepf, Erick Johnson, Laurie Swanson, Kim Winchell, & Linn Kracht

Supporting resolution: C.J. and Amanda Clark, John & Barbara Wyns, Roy Field, Lisa Payne, David A. Dietrich, Mary Jo Thies-Dietrich, Trinity in New Era; Marcia Schultz, Our Savior's Lutheran, Edmore; Wayne Shearier, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Niles; Matt Smith, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran, Lansing; Barbara Paff, St. Paul, Lutheran, East Lansing; Susan Callahan, Cheryl Tsuchiyama, Ken Tsuchiyama, St. Peter Lutheran, Battle Creek; Richard A. Moe, St. Paul Lutheran, East Lansing; Pastor Michael Anton, Rostered pastor; Miriam Bunge, University Lutheran, Lansing; Tula Ngasala, Jack and Nataline Dinledine, Cecelia Kramer, Rick Beaderstadt, Gwynn Kadrofake all from Faith, Okemos; Chuck Forestee, Immanuel, Grand

Ledge; Richard D. McKenzie, Immanuel, Grand Ledge; Kathryn Griffin & Pat Cramer St. Paul,
East Lansing; Church Council from Peace Lutheran, Holland; Jake Lehman, Trinity, Kalamazoo;