

LIFT EVERY VOICE OREGON SYNOD RESOLUTION

Whereas Jesus said, *“Blessed are the peacemakers for, they will be called children of God”* Matthew 5:9; and

And Whereas the prophet Micah declares (as does Isaiah 2:4)

*“God shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.”* Micah 4:3-4

And Whereas Lutherans are called, as are other Christians and those of other faith traditions, to be prophetic voices of vision and conscience while working for the common good;

And Whereas in America today 30,000 people are killed annually through gun violence creating a public health crisis;

And Whereas Oregon has been home to four mass shootings in recent history, at Thurston High School, Clackamas Town Center, Reynolds High School and Umpqua Community College, where semi-automatic guns were used in three out of those four shootings;

And Whereas in the 20 years since the school shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield, May 21, 1998, the current generation of Oregon children and youth from pre-school to high school have not lived without the anxiety of gun violence and the threat of mass shootings in schools, theaters, and malls;

And Whereas Mary spoke with power as a young woman when called by God to risk everything declaring *“Here am I, the servant of the Lord”* Luke 1:38; and in the Magnificat that followed *“God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly”* Luke 1:52;

And Whereas the prophet Jeremiah was called to be a prophet as a youth and God said,

*“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,*

says the LORD." Jeremiah 1:7-8;

And Whereas the voices of young leaders in our state and nation are speaking out with the same clarity and power as those before them and are saying enough is enough and now is the time to end the gun violence;

And Whereas the number one action our young leaders are calling our nation to is to ban the sale of assault weapons that they may be freed from fear;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Oregon Synod of the ELCA stand with Augustana Lutheran Church, Congregation Beth Israel, The Muslim Center of Portland, St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church and a rapidly growing interfaith and secular network in answering the clarion call of our prophetic young leaders to work to ban the sale of assault style weapons and large capacity cartridges in Oregon;

And be it further resolved that the churches of the Oregon Synod be encouraged to take action as they deem right in this time and in their context to support this effort through direct action and public dialogue, using scripture, church teachings, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s six principals for nonviolent direct action and the excellent tools designed by the Oregon Synods Advocacy team;

And be it further resolved that the Oregon Synod Memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to join in the call to ban the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines in our nation in response to the prophetic voices of our young people through ongoing public action and the equipping of our congregations to act locally on this issue for the public safety of our youth and all who reside in this land.

Submitted by:

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