



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 2, 2019

Bishops Carcaño, Hagiya, Hoshibata, Oliveto, and Stanovsky,

We, your ELCA neighbor bishops, are holding you in our prayers as you lead the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

In your acknowledgement of the pain caused to LGBTQI+ people through the St. Louis decision, we acknowledge our own history and join you in confession.

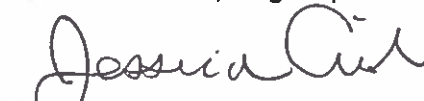
As westerners, we stand with you. The people of the west have a history of leading prophetic renewal in God's church. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide this work.

Our own 2009 decision made clear to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that God's Church contains people with biblical and theological interpretations that differ radically from our own. May God's patient, redeeming love shape us.

As you uphold your tradition of expansive welcome in the name of Jesus Christ, we stand with you. We are grateful for your witness to the Holy One's relentless love that will not let any of us go.

The bishops of Regions 1 and 2 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,


David Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod


Jessica Crist, Montana Synod


Guy Erwin, Southern California Synod



Jim Gonia, Rocky Mountain Synod


Mark Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod


Deborah Hutterer, Grand Canyon Synod


Richard Jaech, Southwestern Washington Synod


Kristen Kuempel, Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod


Andrew Taylor, Pacifica Synod


Kirby Unti, Northwest Washington Synod,


Shelley Wickstrom, Alaska Synod