

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN AND JUSTICE STATEMENT

Grace Lutheran Church, a community of Christians dedicated to following Jesus' teaching and example, commends the ELCA Women and Justice: One in Christ Task Force for its work to date. We urge the Task Force to complete its work and bring forward as soon as possible a social statement for approval by the ELCA. Grace commits to treat all of its members and guests with dignity and respect. Grace commits to joining with our community and others to recognize and address issues of gender-based violence and justice for women within our church and communities.

Grace directs its pastor and Synod Assembly Representatives to use this statement to develop resolutions and other documents as appropriate for consideration at Synod Assembly.

Approved April 23, 2017

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH REFUGEE/IMMIGRANT STATEMENT

Grace Lutheran Church is a community of Christians dedicated to following Jesus' teaching and example. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Jesus made it clear that when we welcome the stranger into our homes and our hearts – we welcome him.

The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA tells us, "...banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety, nor does it reflect our values as Christians. Instead, it will cause immediate harm by separating families, disrupting lives, and denying safety and hope to brothers and sisters who are already suffering."

We believe this calls us to advocate for the dignity of all God's people, even in the face of difficult issues, for silence can be seen as acceptance.

Given the above understandings, Grace Lutheran commits to being a safe place that welcomes and accepts immigrants and refugees. We recognize the dignity and human rights of all people to live free of prejudice and discrimination, regardless of race, religion, or status. We encourage our leaders, civic groups, churches, and residents to support efforts to promote fairness and inclusion in our communities.

The pastor and Synod Assembly representatives shall present these issues and concerns in the form of resolutions and memorials at the Synod Assembly.

Approved April 23, 2017