

**PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN AND
FOR WOMEN FACING PROBLEMATIC PREGNANCIES**

WHEREAS, "A Social Statement on Abortion" adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 1991 affirmed that "our love for our neighbor embraces especially those who are most vulnerable, including both the pregnant woman and the life in her womb;" and

WHEREAS, prayer is an indispensable aspect of Christian love for the neighbor – a fact elucidated by one Lutheran theologian when he wrote: "For by prayer love of neighbor is integrated into believers' relation to God as participation in his love for the world. Prayer prevents the practice of neighborly love from becoming simply our own moral work" (Wolfhart Pannenberg, Systematic Theology 3, p. 205); and

WHEREAS, a common resource for intercessory prayer in the liturgies of ELCA congregations, Sundays and Seasons, rarely if ever includes the unborn or women **and their partners** facing problematic pregnancies among the vulnerable for whom we are encouraged to pray; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that each year the congregations of this synod shall be reminded and encouraged, through Walking Together, to include on the Sunday nearest to March 25, The Annunciation of Our Lord, intercessions for the unborn and for women **and their partners** facing problematic pregnancies.

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Date Received: April 6, 2009

Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 13, 2009

Action Taken: Recommend adoption of the resolution