

BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE

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- 3 WHEREAS, all the baptized when they affirm their baptism promise “to hear the Word of God”
4 and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”; and
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- 6 WHEREAS, all parents and sponsors covenant to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of their
7 children and nurture them in faith and prayer; and
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- 9 WHEREAS, pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures;
10 and
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- 12 WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has begun a Book of Faith Initiative
13 inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become
14 part of the initiative (see <http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith>); therefore, be it
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- 16 RESOLVED, that we become a “Book of Faith” synod, committing ourselves to live in and from
17 the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies, and events, so that, as we regularly
18 and increasingly hear, read, study, share, and are engaged by God’s Word, we lead
19 by example in faithful service and holy living; and be it further
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- 21 RESOLVED, that the bishop of our synod, who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of faith of this
22 church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church,” in
23 coordination with the synod advocate and through collaborative programmatic work
24 with congregations of the synod, lead this initiative personally; and be it further
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- 26 RESOLVED, that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular
27 practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or
28 community to speak and hear the Word from one another; and be it further
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- 30 RESOLVED, that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where
31 Scripture already is taught and engaged, such as Women of the ELCA Bible studies,
32 camping and campus ministries, lay schools, congregational councils, and Sunday
33 schools and other congregational groups; and be it further
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- 35 RESOLVED, that we encourage all congregations to become “Book of Faith” congregations, with
36 this finding expression in:
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- Exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,

- 38 • Sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study
39 leaders,
- 40 • Including biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups, in order to
41 become more fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture—that
42 we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and
43 sent by the Word.

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45 Submitted by:

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47 The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council