

Central States Synod 2018 Synod Assembly
Lindsborg, Kan. • June 7-9

Central States Synod Assembly 2018 - Resolutions Committee

Mr. Doug Reed, Bethesda, Winona, KS
Rev. Bruce Adamson, Trinity, Otis, KS
Sr. Mary Arie, Trinity Greenleaf & St. Mark, Waterville, KS
Ms. Connie Harris, Emanuel, Hutchison, KS
Rev. Dinah Dutta
Mr. Everett Hedeem, Atonement Lutheran, Overland Park, KS
Rev. Tom Wehrman– St. John, Pittsburg, KS
Chair – Rev. Phil Vickers First Mission Hills, KS
Parliamentarian - Mr. Dallas Rakestraw, Reformation, Wichita, KS
Staff Liaison – Rev. Susan Candea

**Issues of Conscience to be voiced at the 2018
Central States Synod Assembly**

The agenda of the Synod Assembly will allow up to one half hour for individuals to voice issues of conscience and concern. Each person speaking shall be allowed up to three minutes to voice a concern. There shall be no response to any speaker or discussion of any issue following the presentations.

Any person who is certified as a voting member of the Synod Assembly may present an issue of conscience or concern. Each person desiring to voice a concern must submit his/her name and a statement of subject matter to the Resolutions Committee. Contact Rev. Phil Vickers, committee chair by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 8, 2018 by leaving a message (with contact information) in the assembly office.

Motion Sheet - 2018 Central States Synod Assembly

MOTION SHEET for resolutions or amendments to resolutions

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2017 Central States Synod Assembly Actions

Number	Subject	Action
SA 17.01	A Season of Global Awareness - Remembering our Companion Synods Designate one Sunday in Epiphany season as "Sunday of Celebration for Global Church." Designate Sunday, June 17, 2018 as a Sunday in solidarity with church in Papua New Guinea. Designate Sunday, September 23, 2018 as Sunday in solidarity with church in Russia	Adopted – information will be sent out through the synod communications
SA 17.02	Designation of Bethany Lutheran Home Sunday November 5, 2017	Adopted - information will be sent out through synod communications
SA 17.03	Designation of Lutheran Senior Services Weekend Congregations encouraged to use bulletin inserts and intercessory prayer petitions provided by LSS the weekend of September 16-17, 2017	Adopted - information will be sent out through synod communications
SA17.04	Christian Vocation Designate August 22, 2017 as Christian Vocation Sunday. Provide resources from the Life of Faith Initiative. PMA Task Force continue to develop and provide educational information	Adopted - information will be sent out through synod communications; PMA Task Force and other synod teams work on providing educational opportunities
SA 17.05	Environmental Stewardship Encourage the use of resources of Lutherans Restoring Creation. Encourage members to be active environmental stewards and green disciples	Adopted – information to be sent out through synod communications; work with LRC Mission Table to encourage environmental stewardship
SA 17.06	Refugees and Immigrants Encourage congregations to welcome refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Bishop communicate concerns to government officials and encourage congregations to do the same. Encourage congregations to pray for refugees. Host an annual Refugee Sunday. Memorialize the churchwide assembly to request Presiding Bishop communicate with president and members of congress. Appoint a task force to explore becoming a sanctuary synod and report back to the 2018 Synod assembly	Adopted – information to be sent out through synod communications. Bishop communicate with government officials. Synod council appoint a task force
SA17.07	Synod Assembly Meeting Dates Beginning in 2020, the assembly would met on Friday through noon on Sunday	Defeated
SA17.08	Congregations that have left the ELCA Express appreciation for ministry of Zion, Everest, KS	Adopted – Chaplain offered a prayer
SA17.09	Retirements Express appreciation for those who served	Adopted - Assembly stood and gave applause
SA17.10	Faithful Departed Express appreciation for the lives of the ministers who have died	Adopted – Assembly stood and sang

Update on 2017 Central States Synod Assembly Action

Report of the task force assigned to investigate becoming a Sanctuary Synod – Ref. Resolution SA 17.06

Task Force Members Included:

- Rev. John Backus
- Rev. Karen Scherer
- Ms. Anecea Stambaugh-Groth
- Mr. Tarreld Shriner
- Rev. Susan Candea - Bishops Associate, *Task Force Liaison*

The Sanctuary Synod Task Force took no position on the question raised. Rather, we held three listening meetings across the Synod to make certain that we understood the sense of the Central States Synod on the issue of Sanctuary. We learned that those attending wished for clearer understandings of some terms and expectations that come with making such a declaration.

- Who are the folk directly impacted? Refugees (comprehensive), Immigrants.
 - What are the actions that a Sanctuary Synod would take?
 - Would congregations be required to offer sanctuary if such a resolution passed?
 - Would such a resolution suggest civil disobedience, and if so, what are the implications for our life together as Central States Synod.
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- Several items were consistent in both the listening sessions and task force members input. Listening session participants consistently indicated a desire that if a resolution is approved, it not have any politically partisan wording. Wording only focused on the proposal and how to implement was desired. Nothing else.
 - Strong positions were voiced on letting the decision be made at the individual church level if the synod passes such a resolution. If such a resolution passes, it should recognize that congregations and individuals might not be of one mind on this matter and staying in ministry together throughout these times is of primary importance.
 - We heard consistently that congregations entering into Sanctuary would need education and resources made available to assure an “eyes wide open” approach meant to minimize unintended consequences.
 - If churches elect to proceed they would be encouraged to retain legal counsel with appropriate experience to guide them through all the decisions and planning needed to prepare for expected and anticipated reactions.
 - There was, in general, great balance of opinion for and against such a Synodical action. There was also, in specific, completely respectful dialog and only measured disagreement, much of which centered around the non-specific nature of the original resolution.
 - Task Force team members collected and reviewed resolutions and practices from various other synods and found that there is significant variation between them.

Task Force Resource Page

The Task Force discovered that four synods of the ELCA have declared themselves to be Sanctuary Synods—Oregon Synod (Oregon has declared itself a Sanctuary State), Southwest California Synod, Sierra Pacific Synod, and New England Synod. Each have their own unique contexts and are involved in varying degrees in advocacy, protest, providing public sanctuary housing, pastoral ministry, and helping undocumented persons navigate the complex legal and immigration systems of our country. Metro Washington, D.C. Synod has chosen not to declare itself a Sanctuary Synod, but to engage in action instead, offering immigrant rights training, supporting/pressuring the city to be a Sanctuary City, training and engaging in Rapid Response Witnessing for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, and accompanying people making ICE check-ins. All of these synods are working in cooperation with interfaith agencies/networks in their areas.



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services -

www.lirs.org

AMMPARO - <http://www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO> - In a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, AMMPARO was envisioned to accompany children today and in the future who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.



ELCA Advocacy – www.elca.org/advocacy - Seeking justice for migrant children and families

The Guardian Angels - <https://Vimeo.com/157458987> -

Accompanying children and families as the presence of the Church in the courtroom. A video on Vimeo.



The Oregon Synod of the ELCA – www.oregonsynod.org -

Click on the *Ministries* tab and then *Sanctuary* and you will be routed to their Facebook page

Southern California Synod of the ELCA -

<http://www.socalsynod.org>



Sierra Pacific Synod's Resolution -

The Sierra Pacific Synod resolution is currently unavailable online, but contacting their Synod Office will get information.

The international Institute of St. Louis – www.iistl.org -

there is a tab for refugee services



Resolution SA 18.01
RESOLUTION TO BECOME “GREEN CONGREGATIONS”

We know that God’s first commandments to humanity are that we care for and take care of God’s good creation (Gen. 1:28 & 2:15); and

Jesus came to bring salvation to the entire cosmos (John 3:16-17); and

the Church, as the body of Christ in the world, is charged with calling the world to repentance and ushering in the kingdom of God; and

“the whole creation is groaning” due to the abuse and misuse of God’s good creation by humanity;

and given that many of the congregations of the Central States Synod have already been led by the Spirit to begin environmental initiatives, for which we give thanks...

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the congregations of the Central States Synod be encouraged to become “green congregations” by forming a Green Team in the congregation that will:

1. Evaluate the building and grounds of the congregation and take a minimum of two steps each year to help reduce the congregation’s negative impact upon the environment,
2. Educate and encourage its membership on the ways in which they can help care for God’s creation in their everyday lives by living simply and walking lightly on the earth,
3. Encourage personal "green discipleship" and actions to conserve energy and/or use renewable energy and supporting policies that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and
4. Communicate with and respond to the work of the Central States Synod Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) Mission Table, which serves as a resource for all Synod congregations. Further resources are available at www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org. LRC is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Submitted by: CSS LRC Mission Table
Noni Strand, Redeemer, Salina, KS
Gary and Jeani Anderson, First, Topeka, KS
Richard Nelson, St. Mark’s, Waterville, KS
Larry Erickson, First, Manhattan, KS
Jane Meyerkord, Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Florissant, MO
Jan Koch, Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Florissant, MO
Kaylie Ines, Reformation, Wichita, KS
Jacob Spilker, Camp Tomah Shinga
Marc Anderson, Messiah, Lindsborg, KS
Mindy Tillberg, Immanuel, Salina, KS

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.02
A SEASON OF GLOBAL AWARENESS
Remembering our Companion Synods

Because it is vitally important for the people, the congregations, and the leadership of the Central States Synod to be aware that we are part of a world-wide community of faith that is called to bear one another's burdens, share our unique gifts with one another, and both share and receive the unique witness to the gospel that is present in the church as it is embodied in the many different countries, cultures, and languages around the world, the Companion Synod Team calls upon the Voting members of the Central States Synod Assembly to adopt the following resolution.

Be it resolved that the Epiphany Season be designated as a "**Season of Global Awareness**" for all congregations within the Central States Synod and that congregations intentionally lift up the church around the world through prayer, song, publicity, and in any way appropriate to the context of the congregation.

Be it also resolved that the congregations of the Central States Synod designate at least one Sunday during the Epiphany Season as a "**Sunday of Celebration for the Global Church.**" This Sunday would focus not only on our Companion Synods in Papua New Guinea and Russia, but also the Global Ministry we share in through the Global Mission Arm of the ELCA, such as Missionary Sponsorship, Young Adults in Global Mission, and our support of Projects that promote the witness of the Gospel, works of compassion, and Justice ministry around the world.

Be it also resolved that **Sunday, October 7th, 2018** shall be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with and prayer for our Companion Synod in Russia, the "Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and Far East" (ELCUSFE) with a special focus on the Far Eastern Deanery. This date was chosen because the first Sunday in October is widely observed by the churches in Russia as a harvest Sunday when they give thanks and celebrate the completion of the fall harvest.

Be it also resolved that **Sunday, May 5th, 2019** be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with, and prayer for our Companion District, the Kotte District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). This date is chosen because it is Easter 3 when the story of the Walk to Emmaus is often read, a story often used to illustrate the Accompaniment Model of Global Mission. Another lesson often read is the story of Jesus having breakfast with Peter and the Disciples on the shore of lake Tiberias and calling on Peter to "Feed my sheep." This is also a lesson that reminds us of our vocation to feed God's sheep throughout the world.

The Central States Synod Companion Synod Team will provide resources for mission education and worship for the Epiphany Season, and additionally, prayer requests, recent news and communications from our Companion Churches prior to the two Companion Synod Sundays to help us to "accompany one another" in our journey as followers, servants and witnesses to Jesus Christ in our respective parts of God's world.

The Companion Synod Team of the Central States Synod – ELCA	
Ms. Rebecca Blocksome	Mr. Gary Kallansrud
Mr. Jim Cooper	Ms. Peggy Schaefer
Rev. Gary Teske	Mr. Daniel Lilienkamp
Rev. Keith Holste	Mr. Alex Lang
Rev. Penny Holste	Ms. Emily Greble

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.03

LUTHERAN FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES OF MISSOURI

Lutheran Family & Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS) is a not-for-profit social services organization. The organization was founded in 1868 when Lutheran minister Rev. Johan Buenger made a promise to a wounded soldier to care for his son. Soon after a residence for children left homeless after the Civil War was formed. LFCS has made progressive program changes over its 150 year history in order to meet the shifting needs of children and families. Over one million lives have been changed since inception.

With a vision for a future where all children are safe and loved, and though our faith in Jesus Christ, LFCS cares for children, strengthens families, and helps build healthy communities.

United in Faith LFCS serves the lost, lonely, and confused with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

United in Faith we provide safe, loving homes for children and work to end the cycle of abuse and neglect.

United in Faith we provide counseling to eliminate anxiety and depression and provide care and support for women experiencing crisis pregnancy.

United in Faith we provide long-term disaster recovery services for families, ensuring the best possible outcomes after natural disasters.

United in Faith we join together to celebrate mothers. At LFCS, we make every effort to serve women in their role as mothers – biological moms, adoptive moms, foster moms, grandmothers, and other women who are raising the youngest generation.

Therefore, Be it Resolved, all congregations of the Central States Synod will use the provided bulletin inserts and suggested prayer on the weekend of Mother's Day, **May 11 & 12, 2019** as a way of strengthening our communities one child and one family at a time.

Submitted by Rev. Roy Christell, Living Lord, Lake Saint Louis, Area 10-Dean

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.04
MEMORIAL ON THE ELCA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Moved,

To transmit the following memorial to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Resolved, we call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50th anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and

We call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

We call upon this church to renew efforts in education on the intersection of the sins of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, and develop healing interventions offering hope and support to those who experience these sins to the point of despair about ministry; and

We urge all congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization in 2020 to conduct a gender analysis wherein each can develop strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice, with particular focus on addressing the areas of preparation for ministry, call process including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women and trans gender individuals comparable compensation with that of ordained men in all calls by 2025, reporting the outcome of this action step at the Churchwide Assembly in 2026; and

We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

We call upon the churchwide expression's Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary; and

We request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and

We request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and

We invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

Signed,

Rev. Jennifer Thomas

Rev. Cynthia Schnaath

Rev. Marie Sager

Ms. Patrica Bujland

Rev. Charlie Maahs

Ms. Kris Kvam

Rev. Elizabeth Cummings

Rev. Juila Will

Rev. John Anderson

Rev. Keith Holste

Rev. Mike Malone

Rev. Brian Hiortdahl

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.05

Lutheran Senior Services

Lutheran Senior Services is a faith-based, mission-driven, not-for-profit network that specializes in enhancing life for seniors ages, 62-plus, as they help them “Live Life to the Fullest.” Lutheran Senior Services has 21 locations in Missouri and Illinois in order to offer quality choices and exceptional support for retirement living.

Lutheran Senior Services staffs all communities and its Hospice program with at least one chaplain to offer pastoral care and leadership to both residents and staff, and is owned by 105 Lutheran congregations from both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as an example of cooperation between our church bodies,

Additionally, Lutheran Senior Services is the 14th largest provider of not-for-profit senior living in the United States which provides over \$10,000,000 a year in benevolent care for those older adults who have outlived their resources,

Since all our congregations are made up of people who either have older adults in their family relations or are older themselves, knowledge and information regarding their choices for Senior Services and choices of living arrangements is important. Our congregations and their leaders can also be both references and advocates to seniors needing information.

Therefore, Be it Resolved, all congregations of the Central States Synod will use the provided bulletin inserts and the suggested intercessory prayer on the weekend of **September 15-16, 2018** as a way of informing our brothers and sisters in Christ of how God is at work through this ministry with seniors.

And be it further resolved that we offer a loud and boisterous “Alleluia, Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!” for the work of ministry being done through Lutheran Senior Services.

SIGNED:

Rev. Roy Christell, Living Lord Lutheran Church (Lake Saint Louis, MO)

Rev. Callista Isabelle, Hope Lutheran Church (St. Charles, MO)

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.06

CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVE LEFT THE ELCA

The Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head, and exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seeks to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. In the course of its life together, a congregation may determine that it must terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and this synod in order that it might better pursue its mission through worship, nurturing its members and outreach through witness and service; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central States Synod in Assembly give thanks for

Trinity Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS, Salem Lutheran Church, Axtell, KS, and
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Norway, KS,
and the partnership in mission and ministry we shared over the years; and,

Resolved, That the Chaplains of this Assembly lead us in prayer for all of Christ's Church.

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.07

CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVE CLOSED

There are times when new congregations are born and there are times when an existing congregation is disbanded. These congregations have closed since the last synod assembly:

Faith Lutheran, Prairie Village, KS
Children's Memorial Lutheran, Kansas City MO

Resolved, that the Central States Synod in assembly remember in gratitude the life of these communities of the faithful over the years and ask that the chaplain of the assembly lead the assembly in a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministries carried out in these congregations.

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.08
RETIREMENTS

The following persons have served the Church faithfully, using their gifts and abilities to build up the Body of Christ, and have now retired from active ministry on the roster of the Church since the last Central States Synod Assembly;

The Rev. William Peterson
The Rev. John Lundin
The Rev. Martin Rafanan
The Rev. Michael Harr
The Rev. Michael Kerr
The Rev. Karen Scherer
The Rev. Michael Ide
The Rev. Tom Kamprath
The Rev. Michael Brecke
The Rev. Bruce Freeman

Resolved, That the Central States Synod in Assembly expresses appreciation to the above-named retired persons by standing and giving applause in thanksgiving for them and their service to the Church.

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

Resolution SA 18.09
FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Baptized, we welcome one another as fellow members of the Body of Christ and workers with us in the Kingdom of God. Our merciful God gives us particular companions to know and to love in our pilgrimage here on earth. Since our last convening:

The Rev. Walter H. Evenson
The Rev. Duane E. Levin
The Rev. Stanley Rogge
The Rev. James F. Hennig
The Rev. Robert S. Kreier

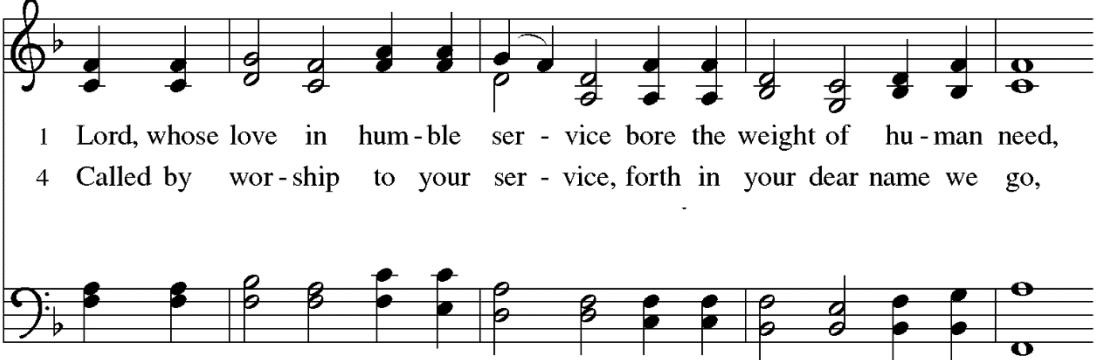
have passed through the gates of death to life eternal, and we remember them before God with reverence and affection, thanking God for their faithful service.

Resolved, That the Central States Synod in Assembly stands to sing praise for our faithful departed rostered leaders, in the words of the hymn, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" verses 1 & 4.

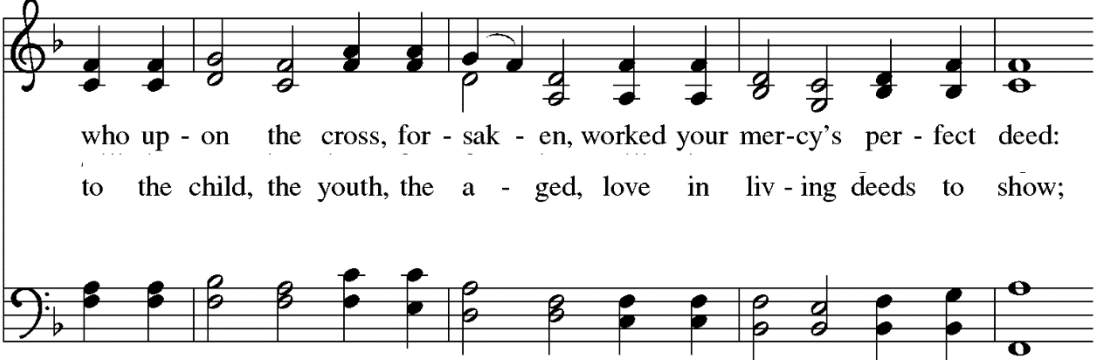
Submitted by: Resolutions Committee

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Adoption

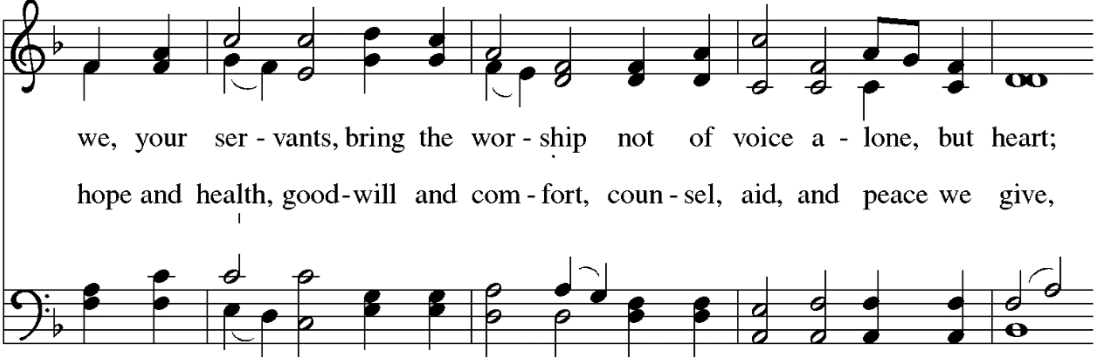
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



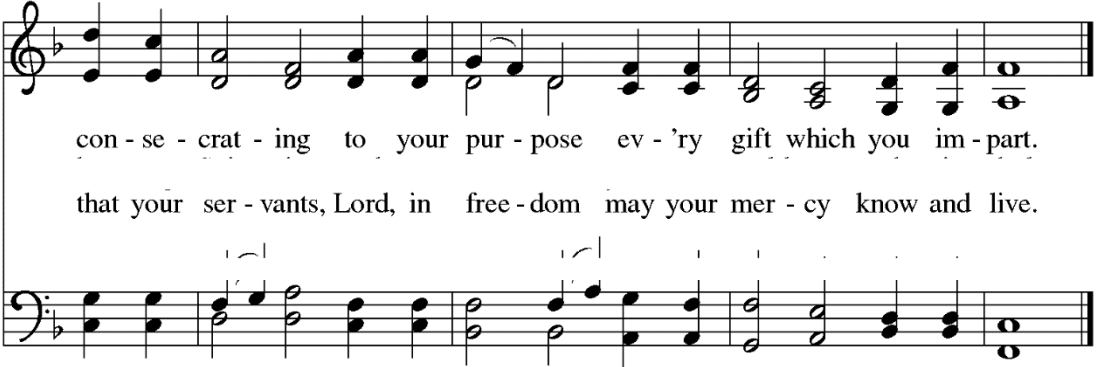
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.