

Resolution SA24.04

2024 RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Stories and images of war around the globe continue to demand our attention and action for peace. The loss of human life in Gaza, Ukraine, Syria, and other nations climbs each day.

The ELCA Conference of Bishops has issued statements urging legislators and leaders to work for a cease-fire in Gaza, and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has publicly called for peace in the Holy Land. (1)

Our ELCA Social Statement, **“For Peace in God's World,”** adopted in 1995, outlines biblical and theological teaching on war and peace, and our call to be peacemakers. (2)

In addition to the loss of human life, the environmental costs of war are deep and long-lasting. Damage to water sources and water infrastructure, air pollution, and contamination of soil harm both human and other-than-human creatures. (3)

Active warfare multiplies the already significant output of greenhouse gas emissions from militaries, exacerbating climate change. Bombings devastate land, biodiversity, and natural habitats. (4)

Intersecting issues of hunger, poverty, war, climate change, and injustice plague those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged and imperil the future for generations to come.

Therefore, be it resolved that faith communities and individuals in the Central States Synod commit themselves to worship, educate, and advocate for peace and justice for all the Earth by:

- 1) Including prayers for peace in every communal worship service and in our individual prayers.
- 2) Utilizing the resources of the ELCA and other appropriate sources to learn more about our call as earth keepers and peacemakers. (5)
- 3) Advocating for peace and climate justice through [ELCA Advocacy](#), Kansas Interfaith Action ([KIFA](#)), and your designated legislators. (6)
- 4) Highlighting peace-making during Advent 2024 and the month of December, utilizing the resources of the 2024 Creation Care Plan. (7)
- 5) Working to end all wars through the above efforts as one way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of the ELCA efforts to reach net-zero by 2050. (8)

Central States Synod 2024 Synod Assembly

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Let us pray. We pray for the end of all wars and for peace forevermore. We pray for grace, forgiveness, generosity, and peace among all nations. Give us faith to go forward caring for all people, knowing that you are leading us, and your love is supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Submitted by CSS Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table

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- (1) <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/Recent-News-Stories?page=0><https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/Recent-News-Stories?page=0>
- (2) <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Peace>
- (3) The multiple impacts of war. *Nat Sustain* 6, 479–480 (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-023-01146-0>
- (4) <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-war-impacts-the-environment-and-climate-change/>
- (5) Resources include:
 - a. ELCA Social Statement, “For Peace in God’s World,” with its accompanying study guide
 - b. ELCA Social Message, “Earth’s Climate Crisis,” with its accompanying study guide
 - c. The Earth Charter (<https://earthcharter.org/read-the-earth-charter/>)
 - d. Books, such as The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty’s a Sure Thing, by Larry Rasmussen, and Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World, by Katharine Hayhoe.
 - e. Additional resources to be offered by the CSS Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table <https://lrc-css.square.site/>
- (6) Find out who your legislators are at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
- (7) Download the CSS Creation Care Plan at <https://lrc-css.square.site/css-creation-care-plan> to see the resources for the month of December with suggestions.
- (8) The 2022 CSS Assembly and 2022 Churchwide Assembly adopted measures calling for a reduction in GHG emissions by 50% in 2030 with a goal of reaching net zero by 2050.