

# CONFRONTING CULTURE OF VIOLENCE IN U.S.

Social Policy Resolution  
CA13.06.26



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Resolved

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Sierra Pacific and New Jersey synods concerning gun violence and the memorials of the Pacifica, Southwest California, New England and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods concerning confronting the culture of violence;

To reaffirm this church's commitment to addressing issues of violence through worship, education, service, advocacy, ongoing moral deliberation and the work called for in the 1993 Churchwide Assembly resolution, the 1994 social message on Community Violence and the 2013 Conference of Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Violence;

To encourage members of this church, consistent with their bound consciences, to contact their elected officials and advocate for passage of legislation that promotes universal background checks, prevents gun trafficking, and requires the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement so that violence in our communities might decrease;

To educate members of this church that more people die from suicide than from homicide in the United States and to lift up the ELCA social messages on suicide prevention, community violence, mental health, and to call upon congregations and synods to engage their members on ways to prevent suicide;

To refer the matter of evaluating the feasibility and advisability of developing additional investment screens and related recommendations to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with the request that it ask the Corporate Social Responsibility Team to provide a report with possible recommendations to the Church Council at its November 2013 meeting; and

To refer requests for education and resource development on issues of violence in society to the ELCA Church Council for appropriate action in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force.

***Adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in August 2013***