

MEMORIAL PERTAINING TO DOWN SYNDROME

Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a *Social Statement on Abortion*, adopted at the second biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meeting in Orlando, Florida August 28-September 4, 1991.

Whereas, the *Social Statement on Abortion* does not address the use of abortion for the purposes of limiting or eliminating genetic conditions such as Down Syndrome.

Whereas, the *Social Statement on Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, adopted at the twelfth biennial Churchwide Assembly on August 18, 2011, at Orlando, Florida “rejects belief, goals and policies” that “use genetic information for discrimination in employment, health care or insurance coverage.”

Whereas, news reports indicate that several countries have adopted policies and practices that encourage prenatal genetic testing for and the abortion of children who test positive for Down Syndrome.

RESOLVED that the Florida-Bahamas Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

- Affirm that people with Down Syndrome are creatures of God who bring gifts and blessings to their families, congregations, the larger church and the world.
- Affirm that through Holy Baptism people with Down Syndrome become children of God and full members of the Body of Christ.
- Reject the use of genetic testing and abortion for the sole purpose of limiting or eliminating Down’s Syndrome births.

*Submitted by the
Congregation of St. Paul, Niceville*