

Resolution SA 21.01

A SEASON OF GLOBAL AWARENESS

Remembering our Companion Synods and ELCA ministries around the world

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 congregations within the Central States Synod and that congregations intentionally lift up the church around the world through prayer, song, educational events and in any way appropriate to the context of the congregation. The focus would include our Companion Synods in Papua New Guinea and Russia, and 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 3rd, 2021** 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, April 24th, 2022** be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with, and prayer for our Companion District, the Kote District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). *We chose this Sunday because the Gospel lesson tells of the risen Christ revealing himself to the disciples and especially to "doubting Thomas." This same risen Christ has continued to reveal himself to the people in "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8b)*

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 "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

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