



December 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At the constituting Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church, a resolution was presented that called for the preparation of a statement on abortion. The Convocation referred the matter to the Executive Council, which, in its turn, referred it to the Joint Commission on Theology and Doctrine.

The Joint Commission, after studying the matter, has written and adopted “A Word of Counsel to the Church on the Sanctity of Nascent Life.” The Executive Council and Bishop Bradosky have received this document and have approved its contents, and now commend it to the church as an educational and theological resource.

This document is a word of counsel to the church. One of the responsibilities of the Joint Commission is the preparation of “educational and other resources” for our church (NALC Constitution 12.02). Resources like this “word of counsel” are not teaching statements as described in the NALC Constitution (7.03) nor are they social statements as that term is used in some other church bodies. Rather they are materials intended to support study and reflection by congregations and pastors of our church.

This “word of counsel” breathes a deeply Biblical spirit. Throughout, there are specific Biblical references — creation, sin and forgiveness, the incarnation, and the annunciation. Explicit reference is made to the redemptive work of Christ. The document reflects the confession of faith of the North American Lutheran Church that the Bible is “the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (NALC Constitution 2.03).

Congregations and pastors of the NALC are invited to use this document as a resource for study and reflection on this important issue before the church and in our society.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paull E. Spring". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Paull E. Spring
Bishop Emeritus

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