

Resolution 1 – 2016 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly
Resolution on Access to The Emergency Food Assistance Program
Submitted by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Random Lake

Whereas, Jesus asks, in the Sermon on the Mount, “Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?” and

Whereas, Congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are called to “serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs” (ELCA Model Constitution *C4.02.d.); and

Whereas, The State of Wisconsin has instituted requirements for identification for all persons served by The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP, also known as federal commodities) that increase the burden on the poor who seek help from the powerful (Department of Human Services Memo dated June 17, 2015); and

Whereas the TEFAP program has successfully served the hungry in this state without this burdensome requirement, for which no federal requirement exists; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Greater Milwaukee Synod stands opposed to the requirement to provide “identification or documentation for each household member in order to participate in the [TEFAP] program”; and

Resolved, That the Greater Milwaukee Synod stands opposed to the requirement that “the person taking possession of the food at the pantry is required to provide identification at each visit”; and

Resolved, That the Greater Milwaukee Synod calls upon congregations and members to urge their elected representatives to repeal these identification requirements for The Emergency Food Assistance Program.