

# A Statement on Abortion

Adopted by the Third General Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada  
June 21, 1972

We realize that directive was given to the Division of Social Service by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada Convention to prepare a statement for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada to guide its people in forming convictions on the subject of "abortion on demand." However, the statement prepared by the Board of Social Service, as well as the substitute statement recommended by the Floor Committee, deals with abortion in general.

In declaring its convictions on the sanctity of life in relation to the complex question of abortion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada is mindful that unwanted pregnancies may prove a great burden to women, to families, and the community-at-large. It is one of the burdens that needs to be shared with love and compassion by friends, relatives, the Church and its ministry, and the supportive agencies that every community ought to provide by means of voluntary and tax support. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, therefore, calls upon its congregations to provide redemptive alternatives to abortion.

We oppose abortion when termination of pregnancy is requested merely for convenience, for social-economic expediency, or because of social embarrassment.

We recognize a place for therapeutic abortion. This should only be undertaken by responsible and well-qualified doctors, after serious consideration by all concerned--the mother, father, family doctor and pastor--and being fully aware that it means we are taking the life of an unborn child. When, after prayerful consideration, a decision is made, we must ask for God's grace and mercy if we have erred. No law can absolve us from this decision but the love of Christ.

We believe that a sense of responsibility, founded on Christian morals, is the best guide in sexual behavior, and in the avoidance of unwanted pregnancies.