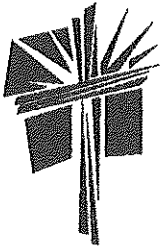


MAY 6 2010



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

112 N. 4th Street--Box 289--Clear Lake, Iowa 50428

Voice 641-357-5261--Fax 641-357-2524

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Rev. Dean C. Hess  
[zion@netins.net](mailto:zion@netins.net)

Rev. Derik C. Varian  
[zion2@netins.net](mailto:zion2@netins.net)

May 4, 2010

Bishop Steven L. Ullestad  
Northeastern Iowa Synod  
210 20<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
P.O. Box 804  
Waverly, IA 50677-0804

Dear Bishop Ullestad,

The purpose of this correspondence is to report to you that 75% of Zion's Voting Partners Present at a special congregational meeting held on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. voted to discontinue affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (ELCA). This was considered the first vote held on this issue in accordance with Zion Lutheran Church's constitution and bylaws and ELCA instructions. A copy of the resolution approved is included with this mailing. Five hundred voting partners were present at the meeting and 376 voted to discontinue affiliation.

Also in accordance with Zion's constitution and bylaws, our congregation will be waiting no less than 90 days before holding the second required vote on this resolution. During this time the congregation will explore options available to us for affiliation. We will also be contacting you to schedule a time for conversation/consultation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call, write or email me at the following:

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Ann Schumacher".

Beth Ann Schumacher  
Zion Congregation Council Recording Secretary  
[mkbasmumacher@netins.net](mailto:mkbasmumacher@netins.net) (home email)  
641-357-2783 (home phone)

*Make Disciples--Grow Disciples*

## A Resolution To End Denominational Ties With The ELCA

(Unanimously presented and recommended by the Congregation Council of  
Zion Lutheran Church, Clear Lake, Iowa.)

*Approved by 2/3 of voting members at a special congregational meeting held on Sunday,  
December 13, 2009 in accordance with Zion Lutheran Church's constitution and bylaws*

Whereas Zion has a history and heritage that has consistently affirmed the authority of scripture as the norm for faith and life, and recognized the *Lutheran Confessions* as a tested and valid interpretation of scripture, and is committed to maintaining this true Lutheran identity, and  
Whereas we seek to follow the Bible's teaching for times of testing when people turn away from the truth of God's word. "I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths." (2 Timothy 4:1-5), and  
Whereas Zion welcomes all people without exception, understanding that we are all sinners in need of God's grace and forgiveness. We support and encourage each other as we seek God's intention for our lives as it is revealed in the Bible, and  
Whereas Zion recognizes that only God's love is perfect and no human love is without defect or selfish desire we trust God's judgment and His will as revealed in the Bible as the only perfect standard of what is truly loving and caring for all people, and  
Whereas Zion can retain strong ties and provide financial support to Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Services in Iowa, and other Lutheran and Christian missions both domestically and internationally without being a part of the ELCA, and  
Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) this past summer took unprecedented action to recognize and support homosexual unions, and provide for the ordination of practicing homosexuals in opposition to the word of God revealed in the Bible and the teaching of the Lutheran Church contained in the *Lutheran Confessions*, and  
Whereas the ELCA has through its history progressively diluted Lutheran tradition by co-mingling with other non-Lutheran denominations and changing traditional Lutheran teachings on the office of the ministry, the interpretation of the Bible, and the principles of Law and Gospel, and  
Whereas Zion partners have asked not to have their offerings support the recent policies and actions of the ELCA, and  
Whereas Zion partners have expressed a strong desire to focus on our mission and ministry moving past the current controversy, which will perpetuate indefinitely with continued affiliation with the ELCA.

Now therefore be it resolved,

that Zion Lutheran Church, Clear Lake, Iowa end its denominational affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and Zion's governing documents be amended to reflect this action.

Be it further resolved that we take this action without rancor, resentment, or ill will toward the ELCA, but trusting in the Holy Spirit to bless those who are faithful to the Word of God.