

*For the Montana Synod to Pray and Discuss in 2009-2010*

Recognizing the long history of injustice towards the Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the United States, we, the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, express our profound sorrow and repentance for the grief and pain suffered in the past and in the present. For too long, we have remained silent, ignored the violence perpetrated against the Tribes, ignored the violation of treaties, and ignored the tragic aftermath that haunts the original peoples of the land.

We ask for forgiveness, forgiveness for what we have done, and what we have failed to do.

As a sign of our repentance and a desire to be reconciled, we pledge to walk with our brothers and sisters of the Tribal Nations. We offer our support for the honoring of treaty rights, the healing of lives torn asunder by forced cultural changes, loss of language, racism and poverty. We will stand with The Tribes in honoring the sacred sites and ceremonies. Let it be known to all the Tribes that our door is open to you and we are here to listen and to work for a better tomorrow for all of the Creator's people.

*Proposed and discussed by the Montana Synod Council, February, 2009, and presented to the Montana Synod Assembly, June 2009*