

2010-3: Advocate to Stop Usury

- WHEREAS, predatory loan practices in the subprime lending industry have increased at an alarming rate and are taking advantage of as well as harming the economic well being of our neighbors who are most financially vulnerable;
- WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in the number of predatory loans and the amount of capital flowing through payday lenders are not providing borrowers with a solution to their financial strains, but instead have created a nightmare of debt entrapment for many consumers;
- WHEREAS, our Scriptures, Martin Luther's writings, and the principles found in Lutheran ethical teaching expressed in our ELCA social statements direct us as Christians in society to advocate for policies that foster financial practices that do not unfairly take advantage of people who are in need; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod in assembly call on our members to learn more about predatory lending abuses and non-usurious alternative practices ; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that we condemn as usurious any interest rate that exceeds 36 percent annualized percentage rate (APR); and be it further
- RESOLVED, that we urge the Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota to advocate with the members of our congregations for legislation that prohibits usurious practices with regulation that limits interest charges in Minnesota to not more than 36 percent APR.

Adopted by the Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly, May 22, 2010