

**Resolution 2026-1**  
**Study and Action Regarding Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines**

1 WHEREAS, gun violence is the leading cause of death among children in the US, more than cancer and  
2 car crashes;

3 WHEREAS, Jesus invited the children to be peacemakers, to come to him, "Blessed are the  
4 peacemakers... (and) people were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them... And he  
5 took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them," (Matthew 5 and Mark 10);

6 WHEREAS, our neighbors' children were shot and killed at Annunciation School by an assault weapon,  
7 which was designed as a weapon of war, which blasted 116 bullets in less than two minutes;

8 WHEREAS, surviving kids at Annunciation now have to leave their childhood behind and face adult  
9 problems which is unfair to them;

10 WHEREAS, states with assault weapon bans have demonstrated far fewer fatalities in mass shooting  
11 incidents compared to states without bans (2014-2023, National Institute of Health);

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in 2026, the youth and adults in the congregations of the  
13 Saint Paul Area Synod be encouraged to study gun violence and then act as peacemakers by urging  
14 friends, parents, teammates, fellow students, co-workers, and neighbors to write, visit, and phone their  
15 Minnesota and Federal legislators to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazine sales.

*The Reference and Counsel Committee Recommends Adoption.*

Passed by: St. Timothy Lutheran Church Council on March 11, 2026