



Agreement. Reaffirmed May 2000

02.06.2002 | Montana Lutheran Synod and Montana Association of Jewish Communi

Agreement

**Between the
Montana
Synod of the
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in
America
and the
Montana
Association of
Jewish
Communities**

Signed June 1995,
Reaffirmed May
2000

PROLOGUE

Montana as every
part of the world is
affected by
religious and
cultural diversity.
Different
communities of
faith may passively

tolerate this diversity, or they can actively welcome it as an opportunity to understand different faith traditions, and cooperate in the humane goals of civil life. This opportunity is being engaged enthusiastically by the Montana Association of Jewish Communities and Montana Synod Lutherans of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Lutherans and Jews alike find the basis of this engagement in our shared heritage and belief in one God who as Creator calls all persons to live together in justice and peace, with respect for humane and national rights. Our shared heritage dating to Abraham, bearing witness to God's liberating and blessing actions in history, does not diminish our theological differences – such as beliefs about redemption, the Messiah, the doctrine of God or sacred land – but

we experience a new day when condemnations, brutalities and stereotypes can themselves be denounced. We are beginning to talk and walk as equals, with interactions tainted much less by ignorance and claims of religious superiority. Christians are beginning to hear Judaism be defined by Jews, and Jews are beginning to hear Christianity be defined by Christians. We must continue to explore and deepen our appreciation of each other's traditions and cultures.

In addition, since we live as neighbors in Montana, we have common civil challenges and duties for which Jews and Lutherans can make common cause. We need not share a common creed to share common deeds that enhance human welfare and strengthen the moral fabric of society.

AFFIRMATIONS

Together we affirm
that:

- We build on a common heritage of the Hebrew Bible for Jews and the Old Testament for Lutheran Christians.
- The one God calls us to live together in dignity and with selfless respect for the sanctity of ethnicity and religious traditions.
- Our histories, though marred by ethnic and religious animosity and misunderstanding, should and are moving toward mutual concord and cooperation.
- The Jewish and Lutheran people of Montana have been

blessed by
God with a
rich
diversity of
gifts for
sharing and
service with
each other
and all their
neighbors.

- Within the
territory of
Montana
Jewish and
Christian co
mmunities
can be
enriched by
religious
and moral c
ooperation.

OUR PLEDGE

Therefore we
pledge that we will:

- In prayer
seek God"s
guidance
for mutual
understand
ing, and for
the unity of
the whole
human
family.
- Encourage
the congreg
ations of
Montana
Synod
Lutherans
and the con
gregations
of the
Montana
Jewish

community
to
participate
in this
Agreement
with each
other.

- Share,
study and
discuss decl
arations,
reports and
resources
made
available by
our
religious
bodies that
promote re
conciliation
and appreci
ation
toward
each other;
in
particular,
issues
regarding
theology,
Martin
Luther, the
Holocaust,
and the
Holy Land.
- Try to learn
more of
historical
and
theological
developme
nts in
Judaism
and
Christianity
since Bible
times.
- Work
together for
the
common
good and
for peace
and justice
as our

authentic
response to
the will of
God.

- Invite each other to be present at worship in each tradition, observing official guidelines for such events.
- Agree to review this Agreement periodically, and renew it at a joint service.