

## **Commitments ~ Five Imperatives**

*youth from city congregations, intro & concl by Pastor Lynne*  
*The commitments are read. Instrumental music may be played as candles are lit.*

As we worship, we give thanks for our God who draws us together, and we work towards healing division between Roman Catholics and Lutherans. We commit ourselves to working towards common goals together, that we may show our unity in Christ.

As Lutherans and Catholics, we have committed ourselves to grow in communion. The five imperatives found in *From Conflict to Communion* will guide us. As was done a year ago in Lund, Sweden, we light a candle for each commitment, now...

**First Commitment:** Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

**Second Commitment:** Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.

**Third Commitment:** Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal.

**Fourth Commitment:** Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.

**Fifth Commitment:** Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

### **A call from the Joint Statement of 2016:**

We call upon all Lutheran and Catholic parishes and communities to be bold and creative, joyful and hopeful in their commitment to continue the great journey ahead of us. Rather than conflicts of the past, God's gift of unity among us shall guide cooperation and deepen our solidarity. By drawing close in faith to Christ, by praying together, by listening to one another, by living Christ's love in our relationships, we, Catholics and Lutherans, open ourselves to the power of the Triune God. Rooted in Christ and witnessing to him, we renew our determination to be faithful heralds of God's boundless love for all humanity.