

June 2026 Indigenous Rights Update Edina Community Lutheran Church

Reflect on the journey

Read about the [Haudenosaunee influence](#) on shaping America's democracy. Did you know this? What do you think about it? What feelings come up?

History

June 2: [1924 Indian Citizenship Act](#)

June 19: [1858 treaty](#)

June 25: [150th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn](#)

July 23: [1851 treaty](#)

July 29: [1837 treaty](#)

Read about Sequoyah's [Cherokee syllabary](#).

News

From Native News Online: [Land back to Fond du Lac Band](#)

From Fresh Energy and Migizi: [Teaching dangers of gas use](#)

From South Dakota Searchlight: [Tensions between state and tribes about uranium drilling](#)

From Religion News: [Native welcome to newly discovered spider](#)

From NPR: [Former federal boarding school's curriculum now set by local tribes](#)

From MPR: [Native boarding schools oral history project supports survivors](#)

Get it on your calendar

- **July 2**, Support the [Native Governance Center](#) at this St Paul Saints game.
 - Looking for a fun summer activity to do with family and friends? Join us at a St. Paul Saints baseball game this July! When you purchase tickets through [NGC's fundraising link](#), \$5 of every ticket sold will be donated directly to Native Governance Center.
- **August 14 – 16**
 - Mille Lacs Band 60th Annual Traditional Pow Wow in Onamia
 - Mdewakanton Sioux Community in Prior Lake

Advocacy Opportunities

Local

Help Restore the Coldwater Spring Sanctuary. See this [article](#) from the Star Tribune.

State

Minnesota's 2026 legislative session ended on May 18. Going into the session, Rise and Repair prepared a list of [2026 policy priorities](#), many of which addressed issues of deep importance to

our Indigenous neighbors. There was little progress this session. As they have done in previous years, Rise and Repair will leverage what they've learned from this session to prepare for the 2027 session, which begins on January 17, 2027 and concludes in mid-May.

Meanwhile, Minnesota's primary election is on August 11 and the general election will be November 3. Remember the importance of local elections. VOTE! **Voting for the August 11 primary begins on June 26.** Find where at MNVOTES.GOV. Find candidate information [here](#).

Federal

Boarding Schools

More information from the National Native American Boarding School Coalition is [here](#). Get ready for Orange Shirt Day on September 30. Get an official orange shirt [here](#).

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) continues to push to pass into law the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act (S.761/H.R. 7375). It passed the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 5, 2025. You can see links to both Senate and House versions on [this page](#).

Learning opportunities

ELCA

ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations continues to provide learning opportunities as a part of the [Truth and Healing Movement](#). Scroll down to find links to online classes.

The ELCA is offering a webinar series called "Equipping the Church to Dismantle White Supremacy." The [first session](#) featured The Rev. Dr. Robert O. Smith, who is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation, is rostered in the ELCA, and serves as Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

Here is the series:

Webinar #2: "Freedom of a Christian: Reclaiming the Gospel for Justice" - July 14 at 7 pm Central

Webinar #3: "Dismantle: Using the Devotional in Congregational Life" - September 8 at 7 pm Central

Webinar #4: "Now is the Time: Living Into Our Church's Declarations and Statements" - November 10 at 7 pm Central

Webinar #5: "Commemorating the Emmanuel Nine and George Floyd: Sacred Memory as Call to Action" - January 12 at 7 pm Central

You can [register here](#).

Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

The Coalition offers two basic classes for those of us getting started with systems change. Taught on Zoom, each class includes two sessions.

[2026 Fundamentals Training and Registration](#)

- Moving Toward Right Relations
- Decolonization and Organizing for Systems Change

Minneapolis American Indian Center

Inside the American Indian Center on Franklin Ave is the [Gatherings Café](#), a great place to have breakfast or lunch from an Indigenous-inspired menu. It's open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. The food is wonderful!

PBS

[Northern Lights, Starry Skies](#)

Join photographer Travis Novitsky, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, on a visually stunning exploration of the heavens as seen from Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and Quetico Provincial Park—together comprising the world's largest designated Dark Sky sanctuary. Ojibwe artist and scholar Carl Gawboy shares Indigenous star knowledge complemented by Indigenous and cultural astronomers Jim Rock and Jessica Heim and astronomer Bob King.

CNN

An [episode](#) of the CNN series “This Land” interviews a descendant of Crazy Horse.

Minnesota Historical Society

MHS has a [new exhibit](#) at [Jeffers Petroglyphs](#) in southwestern Minnesota featuring Minnesota petroglyphs, including artwork from contemporary Native artists.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

National Museum of the American Indian is sponsoring a [five-month, mystery-style free quilt along](#) and invites quilters and anyone interested in quilting to sew along. You don't need to be an expert quilter to participate. Quilt along and reflect on the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the ever-evolving nature of the country, communities, and future we share through a Native lens.

A quilt along is an event that invites participants to create the same quilting project at the same time either virtually or in person. The museum's Quilt Along will take place virtually from June to October 2026. A new 10-inch by 10-inch quilt block pattern designed by a contemporary Indigenous artist will be released monthly, followed by a border design and finishing instructions. The design of each block is inspired by a different era of United States history, as seen through a Native lens. You are invited to sew your own blocks at home, at your own pace.

What we're reading

We encourage you to visit ECLC's library to find books for adults and children to learn more about Indigenous history and culture.

At ECLC's JAM Camp, participants got a chance to think about gratitude and humility. Here is a [reading](#) of our featured book: [Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message](#), by Chief Jake Swamp.

You can access past email updates on ECLC's website: www.eclc.org/indigenous-rights.

We acknowledge that Edina Community Lutheran Church is located on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakhóta Oyáte, the Dakota nation. Treaties developed through exploitation and violence were broken. Tribes were forced to exist on ever smaller amounts of land.

Acknowledging this painful history, we as a congregation confess our complicity in the theft of Native land and acknowledge that we have not yet honored our treaties. We further confess that Christians and Christian churches have benefited from this land theft. We commit to being active advocates for justice for Native People and to truth telling that leads to healing.

This update was published June 29, 2026.