

Resources Supporting - “Resolution To Work For Racial Equity”

“WHY ADDRESS RACIAL EQUITY?” What is asked of us but: to work for **Justice**...to practice **Kindness**...and to **Love** one another, as we do ourselves or our family.

As an anti-racist church that condemns white supremacy, we acknowledge how these injustices are traumatizing to Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and call on God’s comforting love. We join in lament over the lost lives of Daunte and Adam and in the cry for justice. We recognize that “rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color” (**“Bishop Eaton issues statement addressing racial justice” - April 19, 2021**)

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension. It is the presence of justice.”—**Martin Luther King Jr**

We are called by Jesus to "love our neighbors as ourselves." As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions. With them, we demand and will advocate for a more just, loving, and peaceful world where the gifts of all people are appreciated, and the lives of all people are treasured; **(In 2019 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted this resolution condemning white supremacy [CA19.04.18]**

Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture expresses the ELCA’s calling to celebrate culture and ethnicity. This calling commits the ELCA to confront racism, to engage in public leadership, witness and deliberation on these matters, and to advocate for justice and fairness for all people. The statement is grounded in the conviction that the church has been gathered together in the joyful freedom of the reign of God as announced by and embodied in Jesus. That reign has not come in its fullness, but the message of God's yes to the world breaks down all dividing walls as we live into that promise. **(“Freed in Christ” adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 1993)**

Anti-racism books that make a difference - When it comes to understanding race and social justice in this country, authors of the most prominent books about racism have a message: Skip the announcements about your good intentions and instead settle in to do the hard work. Investing in our own understanding of systemic racism allows us to reflect on our own behavior and learn to do better. It's also important to realize this work is not the responsibility of any one race—it must be shared by everyone who wants a better and more fair country. The best books on race, culture, and ally ship are a good place to start if you truly want to understand the history and underlying context of racism in America. (Readers Digest – “20 Books About Racism Everyone Should Read” – August 25, 2021)