

August 2026 Indigenous Rights Update

Edina Community Lutheran Church

Reflect on the journey

Showing solidarity is a powerful way to resist the negative and empower the positive. At the end of September, we'll be marking [Orange Shirt Day](#) at ECLC and in our neighborhoods, a time to amplify support for a [Federal Truth and Healing Commission](#) to help us acknowledge the survivors and tell the truth about cultural genocide embodied in Indian Boarding Schools. [Buy an orange shirt here](#). Your purchase will support the important work of the [National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#), and get you ready to stand up for the truth!

Other ways to get ready?

- Stream the documentary [Sugarcane](#) on Hulu and Disney+
- Read [A Council of Dolls](#), by local author, Mona Susan Powers
- On **September 27, attend Community Enrichment** between services at ECLC to learn from Elizabeth Andress, who is leading the ELCA's Truth Seeking & Truth Telling Initiative on Indian Boarding Schools ([TSTTI](#)). Read a recent blog post from her [here](#).
- Watch [Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools](#), from PBS Utah.
- Preview the [National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#) web site.

For your calendar

- **September 15**, Indian 101, 7 – 9 p.m. presented by The Indigenous Theological Circle (ITC). Vance Blackfox will be teaching. This class is virtual, and you will receive a Zoom link once you register. Click [HERE](#) to register today!
- **September 18-20**, [Mahkato Wacipi](#) (pow wow), hosted by the Mahkato Mdewakanton Association, Mankato
- **September 27**, Community Enrichment at ECLC between services. Get ready for Orange Shirt Day on September 30.
- **September 30**, Participate in the National Day of Remembrance in Powderhorn Park. See details [here](#).
- **October 16**, early in-person voting starts in MN for the November 3 general election. Go to [MNVOTES.gov](#) to find out more.



News

Mining threats to Indigenous sovereignty continues

- [Near Tamarak, MN](#)
- [Near Chaco Canyon, NM](#)
- [In the Black Hills, SD](#)

[New generation of Native entrepreneurs building an economic future grounded in culture, history](#)

Advocacy Opportunities

State

Rise and Repair is preparing for the 2027 MN state legislative session. You can still communicate with your legislators to demand stronger protections for wild rice. Take action [here](#).

Federal

Boarding Schools

Add momentum to the effort to pass a bill to establish a Truth and Healing Commission. A bill was introduced in the House in 2021 and has languished. The Senate passed a bill previously and reintroduced something similar in February of 2025, which passed through the Indian Affairs Committee to advance it in the legislative process, but it has yet to the floor.

More information from the National Native American Boarding School Coalition is [here](#).

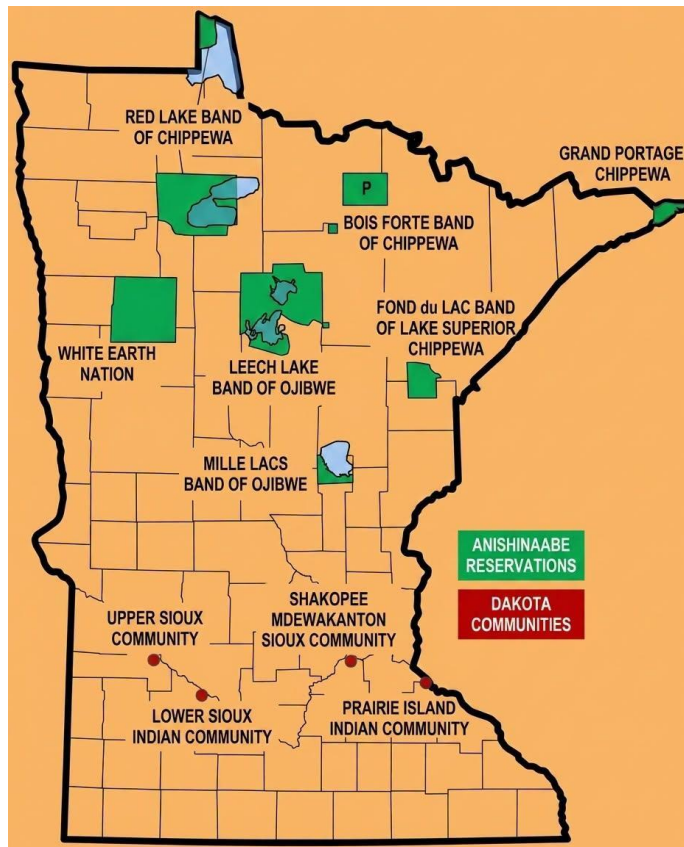
Learning opportunities

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.

Minneapolis Public Schools Community Education

Check out the [fall catalog](#) for some great learning opportunities, including on page 3 “Cooking by the 13 moons” at Our Saviour’s Lutheran kitchen (24th and Chicago), and “[Navigating Dakota Legacy Cruise](#)” on the Mississippi starting in Marine on St. Croix. [Angela Two Stars](#) will also be offering a class on the site of a former Dakota village on Bde Maka Ska.



Reservations in Minnesota

The Indigenous Rights team is an open group at ECLC. If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to indigenoustrights.eclc@gmail.com, and include your name.

If you want to add or remove a name from this list, please reply to indigenoustrights.eclc@gmail.com and provide details.

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 on August 28, 2026.