

April 2026 Indigenous Rights Update Edina Community Lutheran Church

Reflect on the journey

Listen to [this story](#) about a Minneapolis march in February to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives. Note the statistics. How does this issue call you? ***We will honor MMIW/R at ECLC on Sunday, May 3. Join us. Wear RED on May 3.*** Brenda Blackhawk will preach and share at community time.

History

The National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives will be observed on May 5. Here is a [book list](#) to learn more.

News

- An [article](#) about a manifestation of the struggle for tribal sovereignty.
- [Using video games](#) to teach Ojibwe language.
- More in the ongoing Lakota sovereignty [struggle over the Black Hills](#).
- Walkers followed a pathway for [healing along Bassett Creek](#) to the Mississippi on Earth Day
- Choctaw Nation Moves to [Shut Down Attempt to Open Ice Facility](#) Near Tribal Headquarters
- Mackenzie Scott donates [\\$7 million unrestricted gift](#) to Red Lake College.

Get it on your calendar

- **May 5th - [National Day of Remembrance Events for MMIR](#)**
- **May 5th - Quarterly Repair Network Call 6:00 CT**
The next Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery Quarterly Repair Network call will be on May 5th. Join us if you are active, in process, or in the early stages of leading your congregation or community in joining the Coalition's Repair Network. Register [here](#).
- **May 9th - [10th Mother's Day Powwow at Little Earth](#)**
- **Ongoing through May 17**, The Arboretum is hosting a new immersive multicultural community art exhibit that celebrates earth, creation, lineage and memory. You can see "[Where the Seed Remembers: A Celebration of Earth, Lineage and Memory.](#)"
- **Wednesday, May 13**, Friends of Hennepin County Public Library will be hosting The Mary Ann Key Book Club with Robin Wall Kimmerer, bestselling author of *Braiding Sweetgrass* and *The Serviceberry*. She will be joined in conversation by Myron Medcalf for an

exclusive author talk on Wednesday, May 13. Join the [in-person waitlist](#), or register for the [virtual livestream](#) today!

- **Friday, May 29 | 11a-2pm ~ Grand Opening of Dakota Cultural Center**

From [Wakan Típi Awanŷanŷkapi](#): We're a little under two months away from the Grand Opening and we're excited to welcome the community into this new space. As we countdown the weeks, we'll be continuously releasing event details." This is at Lake Phalen in St. Paul.

- **Saturday, May 30, [Artists Meet and Greet: Cole Redhorse Taylor](#); MN History Center**

- **Saturday, June 27th - Mark Charles - Dine/Navajo scholar, author, and activist**

Speaking at Unity Church St. Paul. This is a two session event: a.m. Doctrine of Discovery; p.m. Decolonizing Health and Food Systems

Advocacy Opportunities

State

[Information](#) regarding the Senate hearing on the Wild Rice Bill to protect waters from pesticides

Minnesota's 2026 legislative session began on February 17. Rise and Repair has prepared a list of [2026 policy priorities](#), many of which address issues of deep importance to our Indigenous neighbors.

There are now Senate Files for each piece of legislation from Rise and Repair's legislative suite to protect Wild Rice. Below are the numbers & basic overviews:

- [SF 3748](#) | HF 3896: Restricting Motorized Watercraft Operations
- [SF 3749](#) | HF 3899: Recognizing Inherent Rights
- [SF 3915](#) | HF 3898: Ban Pesticides in Wild Rice Waters
- [SF 3916](#) | HF 3897: Wild Rice Risk Justification

There was a hearing on SF-3749|HF-3899 mid-March, and the bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the State & Local Government Omnibus. While Rise and Repair had hoped it would pass this committee and go to the floor for a vote, we understand that recognizing the inherent right of *Manoomin/Psij* is a novel concept and despite this policy being on the [DFL's current Action Agenda](#), we need to engage in more education even with our DFL members. **Rise and Repair is asking that we communicate with our legislators to demand stronger protections for wild rice. Take action [here](#).**

Federal

[Boarding Schools](#)

A bill to establish a Truth and Healing Commission 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. The ELCA advocacy team is now encouraging strong support for the Truth and Healing

Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act H.R.7325 / S.761. [Take action here.](#)

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

Local

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

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.

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

MNIPL

Resources from MNIPL:

- Our [introduction to the Doctrine of Discovery is here](#)
- Our [introduction to reparations is here](#)
- Liz's [law review article exploring the Doctrine of Discovery](#) (because you asked for one and OF COURSE Liz wrote one) [is here](#)
- To learn more about Jim Bear's transformative Sacred Sites Tours, email him at jimbear@mnipl.org

Minneapolis Area Synod

Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy "[Moving Beyond Land Acknowledgments](#)", March 12, 2026. Passcode: R6.Yf2FBR6.Yf2FB
Slides are [here](#).

Friends of Hennepin County Public Library

Save Wednesday, May 13! Robin Wall Kimmerer will be at the Minneapolis Central Library for the Mary Ann Key Book Club. It starts at 6:30 p.m. Find the [link to register here](#).

Sierra Club

From the Spring 2026 issue of the Sierra Club magazine: [The Reciprocity Way: Indigenous knowledge and climate science combine to chart a path forward.](#)

MN Landscape Arboretum The Arboretum is hosting a new immersive multicultural community art exhibit that celebrates earth, creation, lineage and memory. You can see "[Where the Seed Remembers: A Celebration of Earth, Lineage and Memory](#)" through May 17, 2026.

What we're reading

We encourage you to visit our church library to find books for adults and children to learn more about Indigenous history and culture.

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 April 25, 2026.