

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2024 Annual Commemoration Service

Sunday, January 14, 2024 - 3:00 PM

**The Cleveland Chapter of the
African Descent Lutheran Association**

with the

**The Northeastern Ohio Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Theme:

“Do Justice”

Hosted By:

**Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
20300 Hilliard Boulevard
Rocky River, Ohio 44116**

Guest Speaker:

The Reverend Julianne D. Smith

Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality

Director for Evangelical Mission

Northeastern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Renewer of Society, Martyr, 1968**

The Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead

A Baptist minister, Martin Luther King Jr. led the African American civil rights movement out of his passion for the poor and the disenfranchised, his dedication to nonviolence, and his devotion to Jesus. He modeled Christian nonviolent disobedience to unjust laws. His contributions to American society were recognized when in 1986 his birthday, January 15, was designated a federal holiday, now celebrated on the third Monday in January. An alternate date for his commemoration is his death day, April 4.

Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude.

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. So, when Jesus says, "Love your enemies," he is setting forth a profound and ultimately inescapable admonition. Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies- or else? The chain reaction of evil-hate begetting hate, wars producing wars-must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. The one who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

(Martin Luther King, Jr. selected quotes)

GATHERING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW #841

WELCOME

Pastor Marissa Harrison

GREETINGS

Deacon Caroline Cole

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar Scott Wiley

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like your servant Martin Luther King Jr., to work for justice among people and nations, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READING

Amos 5:18-24

Frederica Cohen

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

The Rev. Dr. Leonard Killings

HYMN OF PRAISE

Men’s Chorus

New Covenant Lutheran

HOLY GOSPEL**Matthew 5:38-48****The Rev. Julianne D. Smith**

The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 5:38-48

Glory to you, O Lord

³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.**GUEST SPEAKER****Do Justice****The Rev. Julianne D. Smith****ANTHEM****Lutheran East High School Choir
Directed by Mr. Jonathon Turner****THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***(Intersessions incorporating Martin Luther King, Jr. quotes)***INTERCESSOR 1****Adam Pate**

There is nothing new in poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it. Let us pray that we use the resources of the earth to end poverty.

INTERCESSOR 2**Adam Pate**

Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any land, in any city at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the necessities of life? There is no deficit in human resources. The deficit is in human will. Let us pray that we use the resources of the earth to end hunger.

INTERCESSOR 3**Janice Silcox**

True compassion is more than flinging a coin at a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. Let us pray to reverse systems that perpetuate hunger and poverty.

INTERCESSOR 4**Dr. Suzanne Hawthorne-Clay**

"All this is simply to say that all life is interrelated. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality; tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich even if he has a billion dollars. As long as diseases are rampant and millions of people cannot expect to live more than twenty or thirty years, no man can be totally healthy, even if he just got a clean bill of health from the finest clinic in America. Strangely enough, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. Let us pray that there will be equity in our cities, states, countries and in our world in order that we all may be what God created us all to be.

INTERCESSOR 5**Michelle Williams**

Hunger is not an issue of charity. It is an issue of Justice. Let us pray that we follow in the footsteps of the prophets who seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in the sight of God and in all places in our society as we bear the light and the cross of Christ our Savior throughout the world.

Amen.**OFFERING****Lutheran World Relief****Mr. Albert Barnes****OFFERTORY MUSIC**

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**Bishop Laura Barbins**

Let us, like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture of their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men (and women) have torn down, people other-centered can build up.

(Martin Luther King, Jr. selected quotes)

CLOSING REMARKS**Bishop Laura Barbins**

Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force, so beautifully exemplified in the life of our Christ, is the most potent instrument available in mankind's quest for peace and security.

(From Strength to Love, Harper & Row, 1963)

SENDING HYMN**We Shall Overcome****On Next Page**

text and music Public Domain

2023 All Right Reserved NEOS-ELCA/ADLA Cleveland Chapter.

Liturgies used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Sundays and Seasons License #SAS028539.

Scripture from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Special thanks for the people of Good Soil Lutheran Ministries for hosting us today and providing the fellowship time following worship.



1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver - come,
 2 We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
 3 We shall all have peace, we shall all have peace,
 4 We shall see the Lord, we shall see the Lord,
 5 We are not a - fraid, we are not a - fraid,
 6 God is on our side, God is on our side,



we shall o - ver - come some - day. Oh, deep in our
 we'll walk hand in hand some - day. Oh, deep in our
 we shall all have peace some - day. Oh, deep in our
 we shall see the Lord some - day. Oh, deep in our
 we are not a - fraid to - day. Oh, deep in our
 God is on our side to - day. Oh, deep in our



hearts we do be - lieve we shall o - ver - come some - day.
 hearts we do be - lieve we'll walk hand in hand some - day.
 hearts we do be - lieve we shall all have peace some - day.
 hearts we do be - lieve we shall see the Lord some - day.
 hearts we do be - lieve we are not a - fraid to - day.
 hearts we do be - lieve God is on our side to - day.

Text: traditional
 Music: WE SHALL OVERCOME, African American spiritual

Participants in Today's Service:

The Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins	Northeastern Ohio Synod Bishop
Deacon Caroline Cole	ADLA President, Cleveland Chapter <i>New Covenant Lutheran, East Cleveland</i>
Albert Barnes	ADLA Treasurer, Cleveland Chapter <i>Advent Lutheran, Cleveland</i>
The Rev. Dr. Leonard Killings	ADLA Region 6 Representative <i>Advent Lutheran, Cleveland</i>
The Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead	Secretary, Northeastern Ohio Synod <i>Martin Luther Lutheran, Youngstown</i>
Mr. Jonathon Turner	Choir Director <i>Lutheran High School East, Cleveland Heights</i>
New Covenant Lutheran Men's Chorus	
Andre Lewis, Director	<i>New Covenant Lutheran, East Cleveland</i>
Carl Gamble	Musician <i>New Covenant Lutheran, East Cleveland</i>
Vicar Scott Wylie	<i>New Covenant Lutheran, East Cleveland</i>
Dr. Suszanne Hawthorne-Clay	<i>Advent Lutheran, Cleveland</i>
Janice Silcox	<i>Our Savior Lutheran, Hinckley</i>
Adam Pate	<i>Good Soil Lutheran Ministries, Rocky River</i>
Frederica Cohen	<i>Holy Trinity, Akron</i>
The Rev. Marissa Harrison	<i>Good Soil Lutheran Ministries, Rocky River</i>
Michelle Williams	<i>New Covenant Lutheran, East Cleveland</i>