

Anti-Racism Resources/Materials

As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emphasizes in his [Letter From a Birmingham Jail](https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf) (see here: https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf), the church has a special role to play and an important voice to use when it comes to confronting issues of racial justice.

It is my prayer that we as people of faith will answer the call to dismantle systems of racial injustice and white privilege within our communities, churches, and our own selves with compassion and concrete action. As the saying goes, "Changed people change churches. And changed churches change the world."

Please contact Pastor Marissa pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org to add to this list additional resources you've found helpful. I hope that our list can grow and change as we grow and change on this journey together too.

Worship:

+ **2020 ELCA Prayer Service for Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine**

- **Wednesday, June 17th, at 12 noon EST** (the fifth anniversary). The recording will be available for viewing after that time as well. The service will include leaders from around the ELCA and ecumenical partners, including episcopal leadership from the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preach the sermon. We join in a time of repentance, mourning and prayer as we remember these nine martyrs and renounce the sins of racism and white supremacy. The service and other resources can be viewed on the ELCA website, by following this link:

<https://www.elca.org/EmanuelNine>

Video/Film:

+ **"Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man"** (2020) - Youtube series with former NFL player, Emmanuel Acho, specifically created in response to the question, "What can I as a white person do?"

Episode 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8jUA7JBkF4&t=17s>

Episode 2 features a conversation with Emmanuel and Matthew McConaughey:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwiY4i8xWic>

+ **"Emanuel"** (2019) - Documentary featuring intimate interviews with survivors and family members of the Emanuel Nine

https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B07YCTQHJQ/ref=atv_dl_rdr

+ **"Just Mercy"** (2019) - Based on the true story of Bryan Stevenson, a young black lawyer who fights for justice for an innocent black man sentenced to death row

https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B082YL5NNW/ref=atv_dp_b00_det_c_UTPsmN_1_1

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+ **"Selma"** (2014) - Based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches led by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and so many others https://www.amazon.com/Selma-David-Oyelowo/dp/B00S0X4HK8/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=selma&qid=1592324381&s=instant-video&sr=1-1

Articles/Studies:

+ **"Unpacking White Privilege: The Important Work of Making the Church Less Harmful"** - Living Lutheran Article exploring how white privilege surfaces in the church and what we can do about it <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2020/01/unpacking-white-privilege/> also has a Study Guide available: <https://livinglutheran.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2001privilege.pdf>

+ **"Freed in Christ"** - The ELCA's Social Statement on Race Ethnicity and Culture (there's a study guide for congregational discussion if interested): http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/race_ethnicity_culture_guide.pdf

+ **"The Invisible Knapsack"** - Author Peggy McIntosh "wakes up" to white privilege and shares her findings of examples of white privilege in everyday life. <https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf>

+ **"Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church"** – An ELCA Study, “A journey for white christians from privilege to partnership” https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Troubling_Waters_Full%20Binder_2018.pdf

+ **Pocket's Collection of Articles:** An in-depth collections and recommended articles, curated in partnership with Black scholars, journalists, and writers https://blog.getpocket.com/2020/06/the-fight-for-racial-equity-justice-and-black-lives/?utm_source=desktop-snippet&utm_medium=snippet&utm_campaign=pocket-q2-2020&utm_term=23607&utm_content=REL

Books/Audio Books - Black Voices:

+ **"Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S."** - Written by ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan, a black pastor in the whitest denomination in the United States. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of the ELCA and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice. <https://www.amazon.com/Dear-Church-Preacher-Whitest-Denomination/dp/1506452566?sa-no-redirect=1&pldnSite=1>

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+ **"Between the World and Me"** - Written by Ta-Nehisi Coates and framed as a letter to his adolescent son in an attempt to answer the question, "What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we honestly reckon with the U.S.'s fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?" Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences. Coates clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

<https://www.amazon.com/Between-World-Me-Ta-Nehisi-Coates/dp/0451482212?sa-no-redirect=1&pldnSite=1>

+ **"Stamped from the Beginning"** - Ibram Kendi's National Book Award winning history of how racist ideas were created, spread, and deeply rooted in American society. In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. He uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and legendary activist Angela Davis. Kendi shows racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred--they were created to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial inequities. In shedding light on this history, Kendi offers us the tools we need to expose racist thinking. In the process, he gives us reason to hope. <https://www.amazon.com/Stamped-Beginning-Definitive-History-National/dp/1568585985?sa-no-redirect=1&pldnSite=1>

Books/Audio Books - White Voices:

+ **"Anxious to Talk About It": Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism"** - Written by Presbyterian Pastor and Seminary Professor Rev. Dr. Carolyn Helsel. She draws on her success with white congregations to offer insight and tools to embrace, explore, and work through the anxious feelings that often arise in hard conversations about racism. Through powerful personal stories, new observations on racial identity development, and spiritual practices to help engage issues of racial justice prayerfully, the reader gains a deeper understanding of race in America and their place in it. Readers will learn how to join conversations with courage, compassion, and knowledge of self, others, and the important issues at stake.

<https://www.amazon.com/Anxious-Talk-About-Christians-Faithfully/dp/0827200722>

+ **"Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion"** - Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove grew up in the Bible Belt in the American South as a faithful church-going Christian, but he gradually came to realize that the gospel his Christianity proclaimed was not good news for everybody. The same Christianity that sang, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound" also perpetuated racial injustice and white supremacy in the name of Jesus. Just as Reconstruction after the Civil War worked to repair a desperately broken society, our compromised Christianity requires a spiritual

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reconstruction that undoes the injustices of the past. Reconstructing the gospel requires facing the pain of the past and present, from racial blindness to systemic abuses of power. Grappling seriously with troubling history and theology, Wilson-Hartgrove recovers the subversiveness of the gospel that sustained the church through centuries of slavery and oppression. https://www.amazon.com/Reconstructing-Gospel-Finding-Slaveholder-Religion/dp/0830845348/ref=pd_sbs_14_8?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=0830845348&pd_rd_r=3386b834-9467-452d-9dba-e7dfb204d273&pd_rd_w=pbLFJ&pd_rd_wg=D50z6&pf_rd_p=bdc67ba8-ab69-42ee-b8d8-8f5336b36a83&pf_rd_r=9677F1C64K6VQCWSMVSQ&psc=1&refRID=9677F1C64K6VQCWSMVSQ&sa-no-redirect=1&pldnSite=1

+ **"These Truths: A History of the United States"** - Jill Lepore writes a one-volume history of the U.S. that explores the "three truths" of American Society (political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people) and asks if history has proven those truths or contradicted them. To answer that question, Lepore wrestles with the state of American politics, the legacy of slavery, the persistence of inequality, and the nature of technological change. <https://www.amazon.com/These-Truths-History-United-States-ebook/dp/B07BLKWBYT?sa-no-redirect=1&pldnSite=1>

Webinars:

"Becoming the Body of Christ" by the southeastern synod <https://www.elca-ses.org/newsdetail/webinar-becoming-the-body-of-christ-condemning-white-supremacy-14001510>

Additional ELCA Resources:

+ **Books**

- [God's Holy Darkness](#)
Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick deconstruct anti-Blackness in Christian theology by celebrating instances in the story of God's people when darkness, blackness, and night are beautiful, good, and holy.
- [Ashes to Action: Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising](#)
After the world witnessed the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, a passionate uprising erupted, with the intersection of 38th and Chicago at its epicenter. One block away stood Calvary Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation whose members had engaged in racial justice work for years
- [See Me, Believe Me: A Guide to Deepen Allyship with Congregational Leaders of Color](#)
Rev. Dr. Yolanda Denson-Byers offers an honest and unflinching look at the challenges faced by leaders of color in the predominantly white ELCA.

+ **ELCA studies/statements/materials**

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- [2025 National Day of Racial Healing](#) The ELCA, in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, will join the movement of racial healing for our church and the nation. This day is designed to raise awareness of the need for racial healing and to inspire collective action to build common ground for a more just and equitable ELCA and world. Resources. [Videos and other resources can be found here.](#)
- [ELCA Racial Justice Ministries](#)
- [ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations](#)
- [ELCA Advocacy](#)
- [African Descent Lutheran Association](#)
Resources for the Commemoration of the Emanuel 9.
- ELCA Worship [Frequently Asked Question](#) – [“What Is a Commemoration and How Do We Celebrate Them?”](#)
- [ELCA social statement Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#) (1993)
- [ELCA Racial Justice blog](#)
- [The Emanuel 9, Five Years Later by Rev. Kwame Pitts](#) (June 5, 2020)
- [White Supremacy Has a Body Count by Elle Dowd](#) (June 3, 2020)
- [The Broken Ones by Shari Seifert](#) (May 29, 2020)
- [Hiding in the Open: White Supremacy on the Great Plains by Kelly France](#) (May 27, 2020)

+ **Presiding Bishop pastoral message and statements on racism, white supremacy**

- [Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s pastoral message on COVID-19 racism and white supremacy](#) (May 13, 2020)
- [Bishop Eaton’s pastoral message on racism and white supremacy](#) (Sept. 13, 2019)
- [“ELCA Presiding Bishop Calls on Church to Work for Racial Justice”](#) (April 6, 2018)
- [Bishop Eaton’s response to racist remarks](#) (Jan. 12, 2018)
- [Bishop Eaton’s letter on Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) (January 2017)
- [Bishop Eaton’s call to be present](#) (July 7, 2016)
- [Bishop Eaton’s statement on the anniversary of the Charleston shooting](#) (June 2016)
- [“ELCA Presiding Bishop Urges Church to Have ‘Difficult Conversations’ Around Racism”](#) (Jan. 20, 2016)
- [ELCA statement on the Charleston shooting](#) (June 18, 2015)
- [“Presiding Bishop Continues Call for Conversation on Racial Equity”](#) (March 25, 2015)
- “ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Addresses Issues of Racial Justice,” [text](#) and [video](#) (Dec. 5, 2014)
- [Bishop Eaton’s pastoral word on the grand jury decision in Ferguson](#) (Nov. 14, 2014)

+ **Synod and congregation resources**

- [South Carolina Synod Inclusiveness Network](#)

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+ Additional Emanuel Nine resources

- [Emanuel Nine memorial](#)
ELCA members are encouraged to give both prayer and financial support to this memorial project at Mother Emanuel Church. The memorial is dedicated to reversing the spread of hate with a message of unyielding love and forgiveness.
- [Emanuel Nine resolution website](#)
This website was created to raise awareness of the resolution coming to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and contains [helpful background information about each of the Emanuel Nine](#).
- [Emanuel](#)
A 2019 documentary film, [study guide](#) produced in partnership with Sojourners. The film is available for rental or purchase on major streaming platforms, including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, and Google Play.
- [Remarks by President Obama in Eulogy for the Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney](#) June 26, 2015.

+ Ecumenical partnership

- For many decades, the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) and the [African Methodist Episcopal Church](#) have been ecumenical partners through coalitions such as the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA](#) (NCC). In the 1990s, our two churches entered into theological dialogue seeking full communion and co-published a [congregational resource](#). Our churches have also engaged in various forms of cooperation and public witness, together and with other ecumenical partners. We have participated in the cross-racial dialogue of the [Conference of National Black Churches](#) since 2015 and in the NCC's [A.C.T. to End Racism](#) initiative since 2018. While the Office of the Presiding Bishop attends to church-to-church relations nationally, vital regional and local relations have been cultivated across the ELCA by bishops, rostered ministers and lay leaders, with key leadership from Lutherans of African descent. We continue to seek ways to deepen and expand our partnership across various ministry contexts as part of our ecumenical commitments and churchwide resolutions, and we invite you to join in these efforts in your own communities. [Learn More](#).

Let us pray,

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Prayer for the Human Family, p. 79 of Additional Prayers from ELW hymnal)