

Recommended Resources

ELCA Resources

- Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture (Chicago: ELCA, 1993).
- The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries (Chicago: ELCA, 2013)
- Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent (Chicago: ELCA, 2019)

Books and Articles

- Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.
- Duncan, Lenny. *Dear Church*.
- Equal Justice Initiative. *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror*.
- Irving, Debby. *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*.

There is no longer Jew or
Greek, slave or free, male
or female; for all of you
are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28



A Journey for White
Christians from
Privilege to Partnership



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

This study is an invitation to explore who are. Therefore it begins and ends in baptismal water. Water, together with God's Word of promise, is cleansing and healing. Yet these waters are also troubling, for in them each day the power and privilege to which we have become so accustomed is put to death.

Following the rhythm of the liturgical year and through the exploration of scripture, the histories of the United States and the ELCA, and our own stories, we will learn, repent, and grow as disciples of Christ. This process is an intentional journey to enter into addressing hard questions of what needs to die in order for new life to rise.

The commitment to enter into this study should not be made lightly. It will mean re-examining old leanings and seeking after new ways of relating. It may include giving up some old cultural traditions. It may include pain, tears, and challenge. Entering troubled waters to seek healing requires courage, trust, and willingness to join with other to seek a church of full partnership.

"God's a-goin'-a trouble the water"

African American Spiritual, ELW 459



- Class length: 18 2-hour sessions that follow the liturgical year beginning in Advent
- Class size: recommended for groups of 12-20 people
- Ongoing conversation with other Virginia Synod leaders who are engaged in this study in their own contexts
- Direct action on the Apology of the ELCA to People of African Descent that is accessible to predominately white congregations
- Download and read more at: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice>

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Regular class attendance and participation will be crucial to this holy work. Relationships with others will deepen and grow as we enter the waters together.

PRAYER & REFLECTION

individual prayer and reflection in between sessions will be vital processing the lessons.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Conversations and intentional listening to people of color in person and through videos, books, and articles will expand the voices we engage with beyond class participants.