



Sacred Ground is a dialogue series around race designed for these times. It is an attempt to be responsive to the profound challenges that currently exist in our society. It is focused on the conflicts and questions that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them. It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.

- It is built around **powerful documentary films and readings**, which we are pleased to bring you and which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue.
- **Participants commit** to assigned films and readings, which will seem manageable to some and perhaps a lot to others. There is a maximum of 90 minutes of film/video to watch per session, and an average of 35 pages to read.
- The series brings participants' attention to various key chapters in U.S. history of race and racism, as well some of the latest thinking by scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness.
- It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.
- It emphasizes **personal story-sharing and deepening relationships**.
- It invites exploration of how people of color have been harmed by racism, and how white people have been hurt in other ways, creating a shared – if deeply unequal – brokenness that **compels us to overcome these legacies in deliberate partnership**. This work can take various shapes.
- It strongly encourages people to constitute dialogue groups with socioeconomic and political diversity, which may involve partnering with another congregation (Episcopal or other).
- It puts attention on issues related to race, while also examining how those issues intersect with family history, class status, regional identity (regional cultures, urban/rural divides, coasts versus heartland), and political identity (red states/blue states, Trump-related divides).

- This series, framed as a spiritual journey, is grounded in the Christian faith – in **the example of Jesus Christ** and the power of scripture, prayer, God's grace, and the Holy Spirit—to help us step closer to **the dream of beloved community**.

The Indiana Kentucky Synod of the ELCA, in partnership with Christ Lutheran Church, invites you to join in this discussion circle beginning January 18, 2023, and meeting every other Wednesday for 11 sessions, each 90 minutes, from 6:00-7:30 pm CST/7:00-8:30 pm EST. During Lent, a session for clergy and church workers committed to worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent will be offered on the following Thursday at 11:00 am CST/ noon EST. We will meet via Zoom. Registration will open November 1, 2022 and close December 19, 2022, or when 80 participants have registered.

For registration, go to: <https://clcvalpo.org/sacred-ground>

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Owen (jlo46383@msn.com) or Kathy Sutherland (ksutherland54@yahoo.com). For more information about Sacred Ground, please see this link: <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/about>