



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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WHITE SUPREMACY HAS A BODY COUNT

On June 17, 2015, a white man named Dylann Roof entered a historic Black church in Charleston during a prayer meeting and opened fire, killing 9 people and wounding 3 more. Roof did not leave his motive in this shooting to our imaginations. He overtly and explicitly espoused white supremacist beliefs and targeted the people of Mother Emanuel Church because of their race and commitment to civil rights.

He drew pictures of a white Jesus in his journal in prison.

I felt my stomach sink when I found out that Roof was raised in an ELCA church.

I imagine that the church Roof grew up in was full of good and faithful people. From what I know, many people there are horrified about what Roof did. Our church may not have taught him white supremacy directly, but like many of our churches and beloved institutions, it did not do enough to teach him to resist it. His formation within the ELCA was not enough to teach him to recognize the image of God in the people who would become his victims. As a board member for the Euro Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice (EDLARJ), I have had the opportunity to witness the stories of our siblings of color in the ELCA through our partnerships with the many ethnic specific and multi-cultural ministries within our church. Many of the stories include painful interactions with white church members. As much as we want to hope that racism is something relegated to the past, the truth is that it is widespread and ongoing.

Many of us who are white grew up with the idea that talking about race is impolite or “too political.” We prefer to focus on things we consider “spiritual” in church and ignore the daily lived realities of our siblings of color. Talking about racism is uncomfortable. It is easy to feel defensive as a white person when we are asked to examine our own biases or be honest about the racism our country was built on. But our lack of courage in confronting these issues and our refusal to dismantle racism has real consequences. White supremacy has a body count. Even though we did not pull the trigger on June 17, our complacency as white people has made us complicit, and we have blood on our hands. The Emmanuel Nine is a part of that.

The ELCA has called for June 17 to be a day of Commemoration for the Mother Emanuel Nine, recognizing Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson as martyrs. This commemoration is one step in a process of unlearning our own biases and tearing down corrupt, racist systems. On June 17 we are to remember these victims and to be in prayer, as the Emmanuel 9 were when they were slaughtered. *(continued in next column)*

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



READINGS

Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32;
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#).
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

A recording of the forum from June 6 can be found [here](#).

JUNE 20 Mary Hess, Professor at Luther Seminary

Mary Hess, Luther Seminary professor and co-author of the book [Becoming a White Antiracist](#), will touch on issues of restorative action, contemplative practice, and learning from conflict to share how our faith can lead us into programmatic work that has concrete effect locally.

JUNE 27 “Reflections from Tanzania” LuAnn and Josiah Kibira

LuAnn and Josiah Kibira reflect on their life and ministry from their home in Tanzania.

(White Supremacy, cont.) Rabbi Abraham Heschel who organized alongside Dr. MLK during the Civil Rights Movement has been quoted as saying that when he marched, he felt like his legs and feet were praying. Prayer begins with reflection, but true prayerfulness leads to action. Our prayers should lead us into accountability, reparations, and reconciliation. This might look like attending an anti-racism training, getting involved in an issue campaign affecting people of color, or giving financial support to the memorial set up to be built in remembrance of the Emanuel 9.

God asks that we love our neighbor, and love requires justice. Because white supremacy was created for and benefits white people, it is the responsibility of white people to take on the work of unlearning the racism we have internalized as part of our socialization in a racist society. We must actively pursue racial justice, and as white people we have a particular role; to remember, to repair, to right wrongs. Let June 17 be a day we recommit ourselves to this struggle and to loving our Black siblings and in word and deed.

—by Elle Dowd

View the worship service from Sunday, June 13, [here](#).

GRADUATES AT HOLY TRINITY

While days lengthen and warm, we celebrate important academic milestones. As a community of faith, we rejoice with and pray for those who are completing academic and training programs this year. As the summer unfurls in the coming weeks and months, we will highlight graduating folks from our congregation and invite you to reach out to them with hearty congratulations. If you would like a name of a loved one who is graduating this year mentioned in upcoming newsletters and worship videos, please reach out to Sue Roberts (sroberts@htlcmpls.org) as soon as you are able. Today we especially congratulate those from Holy Trinity and the Minnesota Swahili Congregation who are graduating from high school. We pray God's blessings on them as they complete this season of life and as they figure out next steps. Congratulations to **Marianna Hefte, Oskar Jensen, Will Kelley, Linnea Krig, Natalie Singo, and Ethan Townsend!**

LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS (SAVE THE DATE)

Lutheran Night at the Twins will be Monday, July 26, at 7:10 p.m. vs Detroit Tigers. Our participation in this event has been approved by the COVID Task Force. Details to follow.

GRADUATION AT LONGFELLOW HIGH SCHOOL

Longfellow High School had ten students graduate last week. Holy Trinity volunteers supplied each grad with a gift bag full of goodies including lotion, hand sanitizer, a gift card, and snacks. It was a very important milestone in the lives of these women, having overcome so many hurdles. As was stated in one of the speeches, some of these students are the first graduates in their families.

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY JUNE 28-JULY 2

Holy Trinity Lutheran will be delivering meals for South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels the week of June 28-July 2. Volunteers are needed for 5 routes and can do 1-5 days. If you have not volunteered before, you could work with one of our experienced drivers for your first delivery. Meals are picked up at Nokomis Square Cooperatives at 35th Ave. S. and 50th St. at 11:15 a.m. Deliveries take 1-1 1/2 hours. To volunteer, please contact Mary Engen (612-716-6338 or engenmary@yahoo.com).



ECUMENICAL WATER INITIATIVE EVENT JULY 11, 3:00 P.M.

The Ecumenical Water Initiative is a collaboration of leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA, Minneapolis Area Synod), the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME, 4th District), the United Methodist Church (UMC, MN Conference), and the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC). The collaborative is hosting a family-friendly, community event to share stories about water and watersheds in our lives. Join us on July 11 at 3:00 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church (1800 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis) or on Facebook Live at MN Ecumenical Water Initiative as we celebrate and are refreshed by the water we all share. We ask that you wear a mask at this event and bring your own chair if possible. Questions can be directed to Madeline Troyer (m.troyer@mpls-synod.org).



FAST FOR FREEDOM

Last week, starting on June 9, the Faith in Action Coalition launched a month-long fast to highlight the moral imperative of providing a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented. Antonia Álvarez of Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza is among those who are fasting. Your prayers are welcome and needed. There are also [many concrete ways you can support the campaign](#), including signing up to do a solidarity fast, donating, and calling your congressman to inform them of the campaign and need for humane, comprehensive reform.

TELL ME ANOTHER! INTERGENERATIONAL STORY SHARING PROJECT (Episode ONE)

We launched this Communities of Calling event last February in an effort to provide a venue to hear from members of ALL ages and to go a bit beyond the usual brief *hellos* and *how are yous*. Most participants were nominated by members of the Children's Choir and the *Cantate!* Youth Ensemble to share a story from their lives. Other participants simply wanted to be part of the project. **Linnea Krig**, one of our graduating seniors, hosted this first event. In [Episode ONE](#), you will meet a wonderful cross section of Holy Trinity members sharing stories about everything from close encounters with bears to why mosquitoes seem to love me SO much! **Kay Buzza, Ryana Holt, Sharon Englund, Maggie Weiss, Erin Arifin, Stella Townsend, and Carter Murray** will give you many things to ask them about the next time you see them AT CHURCH, which we all hope will be very soon! Oh, and you'll see some delightful YouTube videos from the ever popular **Okey Dokey Brothers** opening and closing these gatherings on Zoom. Enjoy and stay tuned for **Episodes TWO and THREE** to be shared later this month! (Rated G and suitable for all audiences).