



Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## **Report of the Racial Justice Subcommittee**

In November 2022, the entire Racial Justice Subcommittee met at Trinity Lutheran Church to discuss planning and strategy as we redevelop ourselves after the pandemic. It was an excellent opportunity for us to meet in person, discuss openly our ideas and concerns, and set in motion our three key areas of focus: Education, Advocacy, and Training.

In Spring 2023, Racial Justice was a presence at CRE, held at Sauk Valley CC, and Synod Assembly. We organized tables and made ourselves available as a resource for the synod. In 2022, we held two separate online anti-racism training events, thus our role in the synod was beginning to grow.

The anti-racism training team organized and decided on a few priorities. We would meet in person, we would offer our trainings across two days (each spaced 3-4 weeks apart), and we would move the trainings around the synod in order to better reach participants.

We also, with some conversation with synod staff, decided to focus on rostered and key lay leaders for training, with thoughts of expanding to a wider audience of congregation members later. The synod has emphasized anti-racism training as a critical component for effective church leadership, hence the orientation toward those leaders. One of the goals of anti-racism training has always been to equip participants to take the materials to their home congregations and lead similar trainings locally.

In October/November 2023, we held our first in person anti-racism training series of two days spanning four weeks. This training was at First Lutheran in Dekalb. We had 14 registrants, all either rostered or key church leaders. In March/April 2024, we will hold our next training at First Lutheran in Geneseo.

The racial justice subcommittee will likely meet again in person for a retreat and further planning in 2024. The anti-racism team will also meet in order to coordinate our work alongside the needs of the synod.

The racial justice subcommittee is available to the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod for resources, education, and possible training options.

Respectfully Submitted,

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