



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Gender Justice and Women’s Empowerment, Racial Justice Ministries, and Theological Ethics

Summer 2026 Resources List

Theme: I commit to... Learn. Act. Heal. Connect.

The following list was prepared in connection to the work of ELCA Theological Ethics, Gender Justice and Women’s Empowerment, and Racial Justice Ministries for the 2026 Rostered Minister’s Gathering and WELCA Triennial. We invite you to explore these resources as you continue living into your commitments to **Learn. Act. Heal. Connect.**

The resources are organized around our four themes, and each appears in only one area. However, many speak across multiple themes, reflecting the interconnected nature of this work. Thank you for downloading this list.

For more information on our work, please visit:

Gender Justice and Women’s Empowerment: elca.org/genderjustice

Racial Justice: elca.org/how-we-serve/elca-in-society/justice-and-peace

Theological Ethics - elca.org/SocialStatements

To use this document, you can scroll through the pages and click on any of the hyperlinks to view and download resources.

Table of Contents

Highlighted Resources.....	2
I commit to LEARN.....	3
Theology and Social Statements.....	3
I commit to ACT.....	4
Tools and Trainings.....	4
I commit to HEAL.....	4
Narratives, Liturgies, Prayers.....	4
I commit to CONNECT.....	5
Study guides, congregational support.....	5
ELCA Social Messages.....	6
ELCA Social Statements.....	6

Highlighted Resources

- “Conscience and Conversation: A Study During the Reconsideration of the Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” | www.elca.org/reconsiderations and https://cdn.elca.org/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Conscience_and_Conversation_Study.pdf

The study offers activities and discussion questions to help people explore what a Lutheran understanding of conscience is and what faithful disagreement looks like. This study is a key opportunity for congregations and groups to learn and discern together and, importantly, to share their perspectives with the task force via an online survey by September 30th. For more information on the *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* Reconsideration process: <https://www.elca.org/publications/2026-human-sexuality-theological-discernment-current-project>
- *Dismantle: An Anti-White Supremacy Lenten Devotional* | <https://resources.elca.org/racial-justice/dismantle-an-anti-white-supremacy-lenten-devotional/> (Spanish - <https://resources.elca.org/racial-justice/dismantle-an-anti-white-supremacy-lenten-devotional-spanish/>)

This Lenten devotional was created in response to the ELCA’s 2019 Churchwide Assembly resolution condemning racism and white supremacy and calling the church to deeper study, reflection, and action. Featuring reflections, prayers, and recommended resources from 11 diverse ELCA leaders, the devotional engages Scripture through an anti-white supremacy lens. Centered on themes of justice, mercy, and radical neighbor love, it invites readers to grow in faith while committing to the work of racial justice and the affirmation of the equal dignity of all people.
- *Equipping the Church to Dismantle White Supremacy: A 5-part webinar series* | <https://www.elca.org/event/051226-equipping-the-church-to-dismantle-white-supremacy>

This webinar series was created to introduce key ELCA resources that encourage, equip, and support congregations, synods, and ministry leaders in the ongoing work of dismantling white supremacy. Throughout this series, we hope to provide both practical tools and theological grounding that can help move our church toward greater justice, accountability, and beloved community.
- *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All* (2025) | <https://www.elca.org/publications/2025-civic-life-theological-discernment-social-statements> and Study Guide: <https://resources.elca.org/faith-and-society/civic-life-study-guides>.

This social statement addresses questions about the role of government and our relationship to civic participation as Lutherans. It includes topics such as the role of ministers in civic life, the separation of church and state, and Christian nationalism.
- *Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action* (2019) + Study Guide | <https://www.elca.org/publications/2019-sexism-theological-discernment-social-statements>

This social statement addresses what sexism is and how the church is called to address its harms within the church and society. It has a six-session Study Guide that is customizable for in-person, online, and low-tech online.
- *Forgive us and Transform Us for the Life of the World* (2025) | <https://resources.elca.org/gender-justice-and-womens-empowerment/forgive-us-and-transform-us-for-the-life-of-the-world/>

Learn more about patriarchy and gender justice through stories, essays, poetry, prayers, and art created by ELCA members. This can be used solo or with groups and is available online in English and Spanish, and in print in English from the [ELCA e-store](#).
- *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (2025) | <https://resources.elca.org/faith-and-society/sexuality-2/>

This social statement was updated by the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and further reconsideration of the section on bound conscience will take place leading up to and during the 2028 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- “Reproductive Loss: Seeking Peace in Faith Practices” (2026) | elca.org/genderjustice

This resource contains four reflection and journaling sessions for people who have experienced reproductive loss—including miscarriage, stillbirth, infant loss, infertility, and beyond. It can be done alone, with loved ones, or with a faith leader.

I commit to LEARN

Theology and Social Statements

- “50th Anniversary of the Church’s Decision to Ordain Women Survey Report.” | [https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/50th Anniversary Ordination of Women Survey Report.pdf](https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/50th_Anniversary_Ordination_of_Women_Survey_Report.pdf)
- *Abortion* social statement. | <https://www.elca.org/publications/1991-abortion-theological-discernment-social-statements>
- Aja Y. Martinez and Robert O. Smith, *The Origins of Critical Race Theory the People and Ideas That Created a Movement* | <https://nyupress.org/9781479832699/the-origins-of-critical-race-theory/>
- Caryn D. Riswold, *ReEngaging ELCA Social Teaching on Abortion* | <https://www.fortresspress.com/store/product/9781506499840/ReEngaging-ELCA-Social-Teaching-on-Abortion>
- *Characteristics of White Supremacy* | <https://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/>
- “Family and Parental Leave Policies of the ELCA” | <https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/ELCAFamilyandParentalLeaveReports.pdf>
- *Freed in Christ: Race Ethnicity and Culture* ELCA Social Statements | <https://resources.elca.org/ministries-of-diverse-cultures-and-communities/race-ethnicity-and-culture-social-statement-introduction/>
- “Gender-based Violence” social message | <https://www.elca.org/publications/2015-gender-based-violence-theological-discernment-social-messages>
- Mary J. Streufert, *Language for God: A Lutheran Perspective* | <https://www.fortresspress.com/store/product/9781506473963/Language-for-God>
- Mary J. Streufert, “The Theology of Holy Communion Empowers Christians to End Sexual Harassment and Assault.” | <https://learn.elca.org/jle/holy-communion/>
- Mary J. Streufert (editor), *Transformative Lutheran Theologies* | <https://www.fortresspress.com/store/product/9780800663773/Transformative-Lutheran-Theologies>
- Michael R. Fisher Jr., *Confronting Racism and White Supremacy in the US Twenty-First-Century Theological Perspectives* | <https://www.friendshippress.org/products/confronting-racism-and-white-supremacy-in-the-us>
- Ronald Bonner, *Making It Plain: Deconstructing a Fictitious and Vicious Story About Racism* | <https://ronaldbonner.com/>
- “Sexual Boundary Violations in the ELCA: Prevalence, Policy and Prevention” | https://resources.elca.org/?_categories=quality-of-call-initiative

I commit to ACT

Tools and Trainings

- *A Long Talk* | <https://alongtalk.com/>
- *Crossroads - Antiracism Organizing and Training* | <https://crossroadsantiracism.org/>
- Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Antiracist* | <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist>
- *Kaleidoscope Institute* | <https://www.kscopeinstitute.org/>
- Mary Elise Lowe and Mary J. Streufert, *ReEngaging ELCA Social Teaching on Faith, Sexism, and Justice (2025)* | <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9798889832096/ReEngaging-ELCA-Social-Teaching-on-Faith-Sexism-and-Justice>
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women ELCA Resources. | [ELCA.org/mmiw](https://elca.org/mmiw)
- "What Do Lutherans Say About Gender Justice" | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWIEKGleQa0>

I commit to HEAL

Narratives, Liturgies, Prayers

- Asian Lutheran Experience - National Day of Racial Healing 2025 <https://resources.elca.org/racial-justice/asian-lutheran-experience-national-day-of-racial-healing-2025/>
- [Austin Channing Brown, I'm Still Here Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness](https://www.amazon.com/Im-Still-Here-Dignity-Whiteness/dp/1524760854) | <https://www.amazon.com/Im-Still-Here-Dignity-Whiteness/dp/1524760854>
- *Equal Justice Initiative* | <https://eji.org/>
- *Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent* | https://cdn.elca.org/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Explanation_of_the_Declaration_of_the_ELCA_to_People_of_African_Descent.pdf
- "God's Faithfulness on the Journey." | https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Gods_Faithfulness_on_the_Journey.pdf
- "Il/legal Abortion: Lutheran Ethical Responses Post-Dobbs," *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, February/March 2023. <https://learn.elca.org/jle/issue/february-march-2023-abortion/>
- *National Day of Racial Healing 2025 / 2026*
- "Our Voices, Our Stories." | <https://resources.elca.org/gender-justice-and-womens-empowerment/our-voices-our-stories/> (Esp.)
- Vine Deloria, *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* | <https://www.oupres.com/9780806121291/custer-died-for-your-sins/>

I commit to CONNECT

Study guides, congregational support

- Confession and Repentance for the Sins of Patriarchy and Sexism Worship Guide (2025) | https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Confession_Repentance_Patriarchy_Worship_Guide_2026.pdf
- “Now is the Time” Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent Study Guide | [explanation-of-the-declaration-of-the-elca-to-people-of-african-descent_studyguide.pdf](https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/explanation-of-the-declaration-of-the-elca-to-people-of-african-descent_studyguide.pdf)
- “Now is the Time” Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent Young Adults Companion Videos Playlist | https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1kNLa7KLLn_DyVTiYMehTNGntUX7YGzD
- “Proclaiming, Reforming, Celebrating: Stories of 50|40|10.” | https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Proclaiming_Reforming_Celebrating_Stories.pdf
- North Carolina Synod of the ELCA, “Seriously?” | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTcaAkG86QQ>
- Resmaa Menakem, *My Grandmother’s Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* | <https://resmaa-com.myshopify.com/products/my-grandmothers-hands-signed-hardcover>
- *Thursdays in Black* | <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black>

ELCA Social Messages

- [Child Protection](#) / [La protección de la infancia](#)(2025)
- [Climate](#) / [La crisis climática](#) (2023)*
- [Government](#) / [Gobierno](#) (2020)*
- [Gun-related Violence](#) (translation coming) (2024)
- [Human Rights](#) / [Los derechos humanos](#) (2017)
- [Gender-based Violence](#) / [La violencia de género](#) (2015)*
- [Mental Illness](#) / [Las enfermedades mentales](#) (2012)
- [People Living with Disabilities](#) / [Personas que viven con discapacidades](#) (2010)
- [Terrorism](#) / [Terrorismo](#) (2004)
- [Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#) / [Explotación sexual comercial](#) (2001)
- [Suicide Prevention](#) / [La prevención del suicidio](#) (2022, 1999)
- [Immigration](#) / [Inmigración](#) (2021, 1998)
- [Sexuality: Common Convictions](#) / [La sexualidad: Algunas convicciones comunes](#) (1996)
- [Community Violence](#) / [Violencia en la comunidad](#) (1994)
- [End of Life Decisions](#) / [Decisiones al final de la vida](#) (1992)
- [Homelessness](#) / [Gente sin vivienda](#) (1990)
- [Israeli/Palestinian Conflict](#) (1989)
- [AIDS](#) / [El SIDA](#) (1988)

ELCA Social Statements

A complete list of ELCA Social Statements can be found here: www.elca.org/socialstatements.

- [Faith and Civic Life](#) / [La fe y la vida cívica](#) (2025)*
- [Abortion](#) / [Aborto](#) (1991)
- [Caring for Creation](#) / [Medio ambiente](#) (1993)
- [Church in Society](#) / [Iglesia en la sociedad](#) (1991)
- [Criminal Justice](#) / [La justicia penal](#) (2013)*
- [Death Penalty](#) / [Pena de muerte](#) (1991)*
- [Economic Life](#) / [Vida económica](#) (1999)*
- [Education](#) / [Educación](#) (2007)*
- [Genetics](#) / translation coming (2011)*
- [Health and Health Care](#) / [El cuidado de la salud](#) (2003)*
- [Human Sexuality](#) / [La sexualidad humana](#) (2025)
- [Peace](#) / [Por la paz](#) (1995)*
- [Racism](#) / [Racismo](#) (1993)*
- [Sexism](#) / [Sexismo](#) (2019)*

** indicates the document also has a study guide at https://resources.elca.org/?_categories=faith-and-society&_subcategory=social-issue-study-guides*