

ELCA Truth-Seeking & Truth-Telling Initiative on Indian Boarding Schools

The U.S. government forced Indian families to send their children to boarding schools to eradicate tribal culture and break family ties, causing irreparable harm to both families and children. Churches played a primary role in operating many of these schools. An ELCA predecessor denomination founded and ran Bethany Indian Mission in Wisconsin. Survivors of boarding schools continue to carry the burden of this injustice, which has led to generational trauma.

We seek information about Bethany and other Lutheran involvement in boarding schools to share with impacted tribes. We raise awareness within the ELCA community. The ELCA passed a memorial to commemorate September 30, the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools.

The goal of this initiative is healing. You are invited to join us.



Ways to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools on September 30th

- Encourage parishioners to wear orange on the National Day of Remembrance.
- Include a prayer for healing during worship on the Sunday before or after September 30.
- Facilitate a forum on Lutherans and Indian boarding schools (PowerPoint provided).
- Hold a book or movie discussion about Indian boarding schools for deeper learning.
- To get involved sooner, lobby your Congressional members to pass H.R. 7325/S. 761 or join the Initiative.

For information and resources, use this QR Code.

A promotional graphic with a light gray background. At the top, the word "SEPTEMBER" is written in white capital letters on an orange rectangular background. Below it, the words "WEAR ORANGE" are written in large, bold, black capital letters. To the right of this text is a white calendar page with an orange header and the number "30" in large black font. Below the calendar page is a white rectangular box with a black border containing the text "NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS" in black capital letters. Below this box is an orange rectangular button with the text "FIND RESOURCES & JOIN THE WORK AT" in white capital letters. At the bottom, the website "TSTTI.org" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. In the bottom right corner, there is a partial view of an orange alarm clock.