

LUTHERANS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE | A Call To Action

Lutherans for Racial Justice (LRJ) is a grassroots coalition committed to the pursuit of racial equity, justice, and healing within the congregations, communities, schools, and organizations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). LRJ strives to embody the [Synod's teaching on racism](#):

“Be it resolved that the members of the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to work toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and within society-at-large, praying that those who advocate racist ideologies and those who are deceived by them be brought to repentance, and that justice and healing come to those who have been wounded.”

[Excerpt from the LCMS' 2019 Convention Resolutions](#)

WHAT IS RACIAL JUSTICE?

We define justice as Scripture defines it, which is well-summarized in [this video](#). The Bible says that all people were created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27) and that we, having received Christ's righteousness (Romans 3:22), are called to love our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:25-37), offering our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12), to do justice and righteousness and deliver the oppressed (Jeremiah 22), so that they may know God's promises for all people (Isaiah 49:6, Revelation 7:9).

LRJ acknowledges that the world will not be rid of racism until the day when Christ makes all things new (Revelation 21:5). Provisional as it may be, this faithful pursuit of racial equity anticipates the fulfillment of that promise as we seek to heed the Scriptural call, incumbent upon us all, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

HOW DOES LRJ PURSUE RACIAL JUSTICE?

1. **FOSTER EMPATHY** & awareness about BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) experiences in LCMS congregations, schools, and communities.
 - a. Prioritize BIPOC voices and work.
 - b. Curate & create educational resources & opportunities for conversation.
2. **STRENGTHEN** existing Lutheran-led efforts around racial empathy, equity, and justice.
 - a. Connect LCMS pastors, teachers, leaders, and laypeople within the LRJ Network.
 - b. Encourage & equip regional/interest group leaders to better-support others' efforts.
3. **MOBILIZE** LCMS congregations, schools, circuits, districts, RSOs, and Synodical leadership to:
 - a. Form a sustainable racial justice initiative to assess the barriers to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion that exist within their particular context.
 - b. Work with BIPOC partners to form an intentional policy plan to remove those barriers.
 - a. Partner with their community to dismantle racism and end racially motivated violence and discrimination, in the faithful pursuit of equal opportunity, voice, and respect for all.