

ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



STANDING TOGETHER IN CHALLENGING TIMES

As I sit down to write, my heart overflows with gratitude for you. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity make this ministry possible, and I am deeply thankful for the ways you walk alongside ReconcilingWorks and lead in your communities. You remind me daily that we are not alone in this journey—that the Spirit knits us together in a community of love and courage.

These are not easy days. LGBTQIA+ people and families continue to face increasing hostility, harmful legislation, and messages that question our dignity and belonging, and face harmful lies about who we are. The weight of these challenges is real, and at times it can feel overwhelming. Yet during it all, I see God's love alive in you. I see hope in the way our partners show up, in the way congregations open their doors wide, and in the way you choose to stand boldly for justice and belonging.

Your support helps us remind the world—and one another—that every person is created in God's image, worthy of love and celebration. Thank you for being part of this holy work. Together, we will keep proclaiming the good news of God's inclusive love.

With deep gratitude and abiding hope,

-Aubrey Thonvold (they/she),
Executive Director

Today is a great day to ensure ReconcilingWorks is able to continue the holy ministry of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of LGBTQIA+ people in the Lutheran church.



How to Give

Make a gift online:
reconcilingworks.org/donate/

Mail in your gift:
ReconcilingWorks
P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108

Donor Advised Fund:
If you have an ADF you can request distributions be made to ReconcilingWorks.

Employer Match:
If your employer offers an employee match this is a great way to give.

Helpful Information:
ReconcilingWorks IRS Tax designation: Tax exempt under IRS tax code 501 (c)(3)
IRS Tax ID: 84-3273216
Address: P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108
Organization type: Human Rights, Social Justice, Advocacy, Educational, Religious

WEBSITE UPDATES



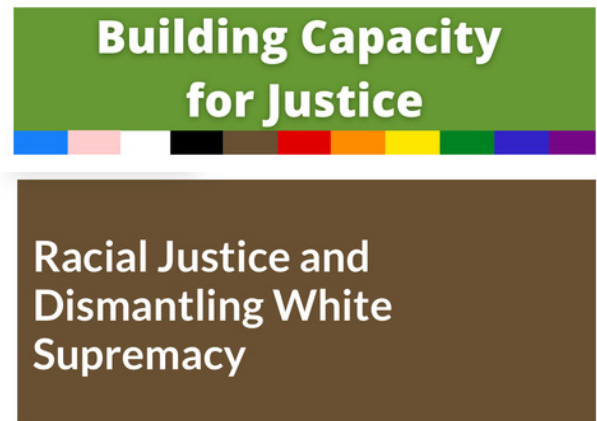
We're excited to share some user-friendly updates to the ReconcilingWorks website! Visitors can now select their preferred language through Google Translate, making our resources more accessible to people of many different backgrounds. In addition, the ["Building Capacity for Justice"](#) page has been refreshed with clearer navigation and updated tools to better support individuals and communities in their journey toward full inclusion. Take a moment to explore these improvements—we hope they make connecting with ReconcilingWorks easier and more meaningful than ever!



Image of how to change the language of the ReconcilingWorks website.

RECONCILINGWORKS WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

ReconcilingWorks is excited to share that our website can now be viewed in many different languages through Google Translate. This new feature makes it easier for people of diverse language backgrounds to access resources, stories, and tools that support the mission of full inclusion. To explore, simply visit our website and use the Google Translate option to select your preferred language. We hope this helps more people feel connected and supported in our shared work for reconciliation and inclusion.



ELCA Declarations



ELCA Ministries of Diverse Cultures and Communities



CHECK OUT
UPDATES HERE





THE HOLY WORK OF WELCOME

Each day, the staff of ReconcilingWorks is blessed to connect with so many of you. Through countless emails and phone calls, Zoom conversations, and gatherings in person, we witness the Spirit moving in powerful ways. These moments of connection remind us that the holy work of welcome is not something we do alone—it is a shared calling, carried out together in community. Here is a little bit about where staff have been in last two months.



Deacon David, our Program Coordinator, recently joined the combined staff and synod council of the **East Central Synod of Wisconsin** for a special training led by ReconcilingWorks. Together, synod leadership is discerning whether to begin the journey of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) synod.

Over the course of three workshops, council members and staff were introduced to the Graceful Engagement tool, received an overview of the RIC journey, and explored key concepts around Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGIE). The time together was rich with questions, meaningful discussion, and hopeful reflection. Synod leaders shared their vision for how this journey could positively impact congregations within the synod and throughout the wider region.

ReconcilingWorks was honored to lead a workshop at **Gathering at the Gate** in Washington, D.C., focused on advocacy and public witness. Rooted in our faith's call to justice, the session explored how folks of faith can practically engage in public advocacy—from speaking truth in public spaces, to engaging policymakers, to lifting up marginalized voices in community.

Participants gathered to learn, reflect, and be equipped—with tools, stories, and practices—for standing firm in witnessing God's inclusive love in the public square. The conversation was rich with hope, conviction, and the kind of bold vision we need in these times.

We are deeply grateful to all who joined us, and we look forward to seeing how this shared work of advocacy continues to ripple outward in communities and congregations across the church.



The Holy Work of Welcome - continued on page 6

NEW Job Board for our RIC Partners!



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

We want to support RIC Partners in attracting candidates who want to work with RIC Partners.

Therefore, we have added a Job Board to our website.



RIC Partners are invited to let us know about open calls or positions by completing this online form. The post will be removed after 30 days. ReconcilingWorks maintains the right to refuse any submitted post. This free service is available to our RIC Partners.

ReconcilingWorks is grateful for our RIC Partners as we continue to advocate for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.



Celebrating Diversity as God's Children



RECONCILING IN CHRIST [RIC] SUNDAY 2026 – "CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AS GOD'S CHILDREN"

ReconcilingWorks wants to celebrate with your faith community and is excited to offer these resources. Many RIC communities celebrate RIC Sunday on the last Sunday in January. This year, that lands on January 25, 2026. ReconcilingWorks encourages you to celebrate on a date that is meaningful for your community. Be sure to use this day as a time to recommit to your partnership as a RIC faith community, discern ways to live into your RIC partner commitments, and set new milestones for the year to come.

ReconcilingWorks is excited to announce that the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday Worship 2026 materials, Celebrating Diversity as God's Children, is here!

Celebrating Diversity as God's Children: Why celebrate? We believe that the Gospel is built upon a foundation of diversity. We believe that the Creator gifted us a universe infused with beautiful diversity. We believe the Blessed Community is strongest and most faithful to Jesus when we invite everyone to the table. Throughout his ministry among the peoples of Roman Palestine and in his teaching, Jesus was always reaching for those on the margins of society and religious institutions, pulling them back into the center of the life of the community. Because it is rooted in the teachings and ministry of Jesus, the work of full inclusion is something that God's beloved children can celebrate. No hiding in the shadows for us! Let us dance in the light of God's love, singing songs of liberation, justice, and inclusion.

Access RIC Sunday Resources HERE





RECONCILINGWORKS AT THE ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP INSTALLATION

ReconcilingWorks joins the wider church in celebrating the installation of the Rev. Yehiel Curry as the new Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This historic and Spirit-filled service marked a new chapter in the life of our church, grounded in faith, justice, and a vision of beloved community.



Rev. Yehiel Curry being received by the church at the start of the installation service.

ReconcilingWorks was deeply honored to be invited to serve communion during the installation service—a powerful symbol of the shared commitment to the full inclusion and celebration of all God’s people. As the church continues to live into its call to be a place of radical welcome, we give thanks for Bishop Curry’s leadership and the ongoing work of the ELCA to embody Christ’s love in action.

Together, we look forward to continuing this holy work of reconciliation, inclusion, and advocacy alongside our partners across the church and beyond. We pray for the ministry and call that is before the Presiding Bishop and all of us as we live out the love of Christ in community.



Rev. Larry Kochendorfer, Presiding Bishop of ELCIC & Aubrey Thonvold



Beginning of the Service of Installation



ReconcilingWorks staff serving communion with Rev. Kochendorfer

CONTINUED: THE HOLY WORK OF WELCOME



ReconcilingWorks staff all had the joy and delight of gathering with folks in **Overland Park, KS and Solon Springs, WI** for a time of worship and learning about the Reconciling in Christ Journey. Staff also were blessed to gather with folks from five different congregations from **Southwest Washington Synod** for a weekend Building an Inclusive Church training.

If your community would like to host a member of the ReconcilingWorks staff as a guest preacher, lead an adult forum, or facilitate a training, please reach out by emailing info@reconcilingworks.org.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN THEIR RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC) JOURNEY



As Reconciling in Christ (RIC) partners, each community plays an essential role in living out a public and intentional welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ people and for racial equity.

To remain active RIC partners, all communities are required to fulfill the four RIC Partner Public Commitments:

1. Clearly state a welcome to people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+” and name its commitment to “racial equity” or “anti-racism” in a Welcome Statement.
2. Be open to calling LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color) Rostered Leaders.

A Rostered Leader is any clergy/pastor or deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); this commitment extends to all areas of leadership within the life of your community.

3. Allow sanctuary/community space to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.

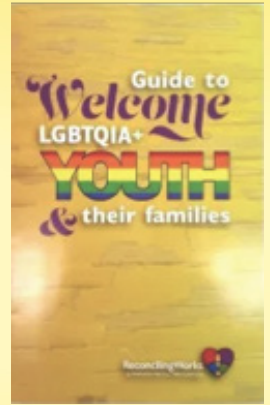
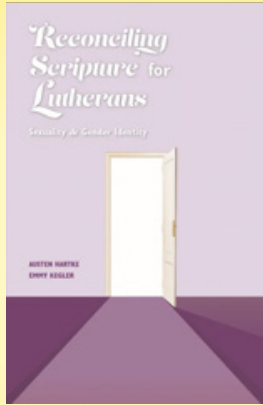
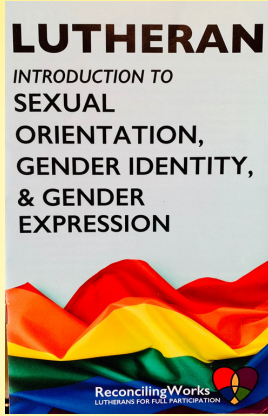
4. Make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program.
A meaningful annual contribution is determined by your faith community, its budget, and the understanding that your generosity funds the RIC Program. Meaningful contributions vary for each RIC partner.

ReconcilingWorks is here to support you in meeting these commitments. If your community has questions, needs guidance, or would like resources to strengthen your RIC ministry, please reach out to Deacon David Behling, Program Coordinator, or the ReconcilingWorks staff team.

Together, we can continue to deepen and expand our shared ministry of reconciliation and justice in Christ’s church.

**SCHEDULE A
ZOOM WITH
DAVID HERE**





EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR DEEPENING AND EXPANDING WELCOME



**PURCHASE
RESOURCES
HERE**



ReconcilingWorks offers a variety of educational resources to help individuals, congregations, and communities grow in their welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of LGBTQIA+ people. From Bible studies and theological reflections to training tools, conversation guides, and workshops, these resources are designed to equip people of faith with knowledge, language, and practices that foster justice and belonging. Whether you are just beginning the journey or seeking to deepen your commitment, ReconcilingWorks provides the support you need to live out God's call to love and inclusion. Orders ship weekly.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH (BIC)

The [Building an Inclusive Church toolkit](#) and training helps you design and implement a journey for your faith community to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and incorporate a commitment to the work of racial equity. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout your faith community rather than sparking debate and division.

Upcoming Online BIC Trainings:

1. November 15th, 2025
2. January 10th, 2026
3. March 14th, 2026
4. May 9th, 2026



RECONCILINGWORKS:
Lutherans for full participation



**LEARN MORE
HERE**

