

ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



A NEW YEAR ROOTED IN COURAGE, CARE, AND COMMUNITY

As we step into a new year, we do so grounded in hope and energized by the holy work ahead. January invites us to look forward—to imagine what is possible when communities commit again and again to love of neighbor, courageous welcome, and faithful action. At ReconcilingWorks, we are grateful to begin this year alongside you.

In the months ahead, our team will be accompanying synods across the church as they prepare for Synod Assemblies. We are honored to support these gatherings with resources, consultation, and presence—helping leaders and voting members engage the work of welcome, equity, and LGBTQIA+ inclusion with clarity, care, and faithfulness.

We are also excited to launch new resources designed to meet this moment. These tools are rooted in our shared faith and created to support individuals, small groups, and congregations as they navigate complex realities with courage and compassion. We look forward to sharing more about these offerings and inviting you to put them into practice in your own communities.

As part of our continued commitment to walking with faith communities, we are expanding trainings to support congregations and ministries on their journey toward becoming Reconciling in Christ (RIC). Whether a community is just beginning to explore what it means to be publicly welcoming or is deepening long-held commitments, these trainings are designed to meet people where they are and help move the work forward with intention and integrity.

We are also delighted to welcome a new diaconal seminary intern to ReconcilingWorks this month. We are grateful for the ways new leaders continue to be formed and called into this movement.

The work ahead is meaningful—and sometimes challenging—but it is also holy. We are glad to walk this road with you.

-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

NEW RESOURCE: COMMUNITY CARE FROM RECONCILINGWORKS



In times of uncertainty and challenge, care for one another is both a sacred calling and a practical necessity. ReconcilingWorks is pleased to share our Community Care page—a growing collection of faith-rooted tools designed to help individuals, small groups, and congregations live out care, connection, and mutual support.

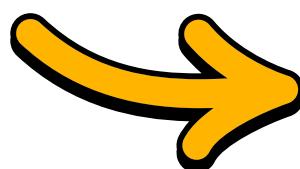
These resources invite reflection and meaningful action grounded in love of neighbor. Whether you use them personally, with a small group, or within the life of your congregation, they are designed to support communities seeking to show up for one another with compassion, courage, and hope.

We invite you to explore these tools, share them widely, and join us in nurturing communities where care is practiced boldly and faithfully. Follow the QR Code to access these free resources.

- **Devotional Journal** – A 30-Day reflective, prayerful resource offering short devotions and guided prompts to help you slow down, listen for God's presence, and discern how you are being called to care for yourself and others.
- **Community Care Prompts Worksheet** – A practical tool with thoughtful questions to help identify needs, map local support systems, and spark conversation about how we can show up for one another with intention and compassion.
- **Loving Your Neighbor Worksheet** – An action-oriented guide that offers concrete ideas and space for reflection on how to build relationships, practice everyday care, and respond faithfully to the needs of neighbors near and far.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/community-care/>

COMMUNITY
CARE HERE





**DAVID LUECHT
SEMINARY INTERN**

I am a final year seminarian at Wartburg Theological Seminary pursuing a Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry. I have a Master of Arts in Political and Social Justice. I worked for 40 years in the Healthcare field in Long Term Care and HIV Case Management serving both as a field worker, advocate, and in management for non-profit organizations. I currently serve as co-pastor at Becoming Oswego, a mission start-up of the ELCA in the Chicago suburbs. My primary focus is working with marginalized populations, especially with the LGBTQIA+ population in a pastoral care setting. I have had extensive engagement with Reconciling Works, RIC program both at the Synodical and congregational settings in the Northern Illinois Synod. It is my hope to continue to work with faith based communities to open hearts and doors, embracing diversity and inclusion to all people on the margins.

2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY MATERIALS

2026 Synod Assembly Materials

The 2026 Synod Assembly season is here. No matter how your synod gathers, ReconcilingWorks remains committed to ensuring that the work of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and commitment to anti-racism is present in synod conversations and carried forward into faithful action.

To support this ongoing work, we have compiled a collection of helpful resources designed to be shared at tables, in virtual spaces, or with those interested in learning more about the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) journey. As you accompany leaders and communities in your synod—whether in person or online—these resources are here to help support discernment, deepen engagement, and encourage new RIC milestones in 2026 and beyond.

Visit the link below for:

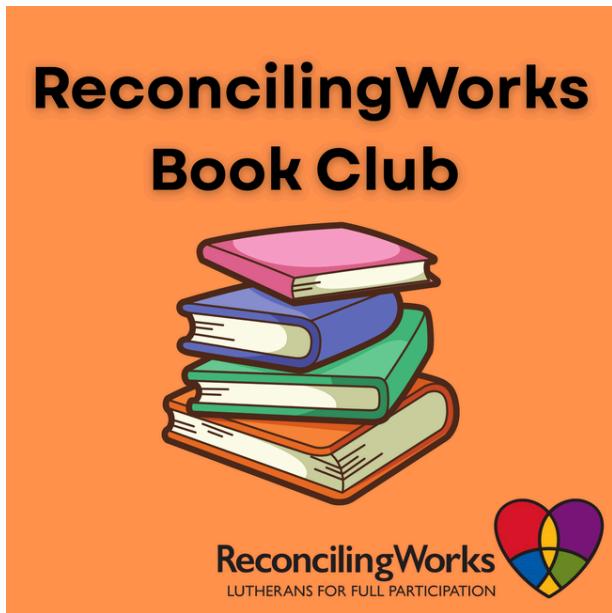
1. A draft memorial and resolution supporting the flourishing of our transgender siblings.
2. 15% off discount code on educational booklets
3. Purchase a ReconcilingWorks Synod Display in a Box for a discounted rate.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/synod-assembly/>

**2026 SYNOD
ASSEMBLY HERE**



CONTINUED: NEW RESOURCE COMMUNITY CARE FROM RECONCILINGWORKS



JOIN THE RECONCILINGWORKS QUARTERLY BOOK CLUB

Exploring Stories of Faith, Justice, and Liberation
ReconcilingWorks is thrilled to announce the launch of our new Quarterly Book Club — a space for learning, reflection, and connection!

Led by ReconcilingWorks staff and Board members, this book club will dive into powerful works that explore intersecting areas of justice, including LGBTQIA+ inclusion, racial equity, gender justice, immigration, and faith-based advocacy.

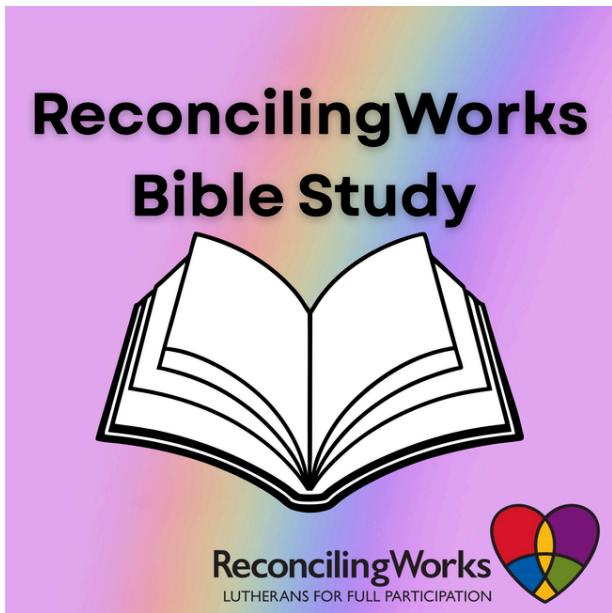
<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/book-club/>



BOOK CLUB
HERE



<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/book-club/>



JOIN THE RECONCILINGWORKS MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

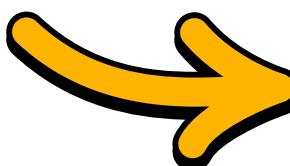
ReconcilingWorks is excited to launch our new monthly Bible Study series — a sacred space to gather, learn, and grow in faith together.

Each month, we'll be guided by a rostered leader from the LGBTQIA+ community who will lead us in exploring how Scripture calls us to love our neighbor, work for justice, and celebrate the diversity of God's creation. This series offers an opportunity to connect our faith to action — deepening understanding, widening welcome, and strengthening our shared call to be the body of Christ in the world.

Together in Faith

As a community of Reconciling in Christ partners and supporters, we believe that God's Word is living, liberating, and life-giving for all people. Join us as we study, reflect, and celebrate how the Gospel calls us to build a more loving and inclusive church.

BIBLE STUDY
HERE





DEACON DAVID BEHLING, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

2025 was the second full year for me in the role of Program Coordinator at ReconcilingWorks. Something that has sustained me throughout that entire year, as well as the year before, is my gratitude for all the things that RIC partners are engaged in, wherever they are on their journeys. The welcome, inclusion, and celebration of LGBTQIA+ people and the ongoing advocacy and anti-racism work all y'all do make a meaningful difference in the life of the church — and in the wider world beyond the walls of our buildings.

Working with congregational leaders, I am struck by your passion and commitment to the concept of hospitality. I will do my best to provide the support you need to sustain your own passion and commitment to this work in the year ahead.

So . . . when you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me! I add that request to the end of most emails I send to RIC partners, but it is worth ending this newsletter paragraph with it. As the Program Coordinator, it is my job to help you find answers to questions and to talk through the journey taking place in your faith communities and ministries. Keep the questions and the emails coming!

JENNIFER TROM, OPERATIONS MANAGER

Did anyone else spend time with the ReconcilingWorks Advent Devotional? I keep going back to Pastor Hawkins' writings on JOY to remind myself to do as suggested, to "always make space to attend to even the smallest of delights."

So, when I solve a website or database puzzle, that brings me delight. When I can assist someone who reaches out with a question or problem, I feel gratitude in both giving the support and knowing there's yet another person doing this holy work in their community. And, as always, when I am welcoming a new RIC Partner, I lift up a celebratory prayer!

Please join me in looking for the smallest of delights, and please reach out when you have a question or need support.

In peace and JOY,
Jennifer

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.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2026 CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AS GOD'S CHILDREN

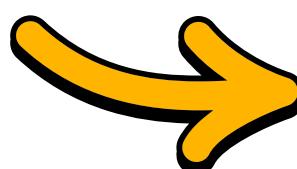
ReconcilingWorks wants to celebrate with your faith community and is excited to offer these resources. Many RIC communities celebrate RIC Sunday on the last Sunday in January. This year, that lands on January 25, 2026. ReconcilingWorks encourages you to celebrate on a date that is meaningful for your 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, 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.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/ric-sunday/>

Access RIC Sunday
Resources **HERE**





EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR DEEPENING & 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.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/purchase/>

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

[Building an Inclusive Church Training & Toolkit](#)

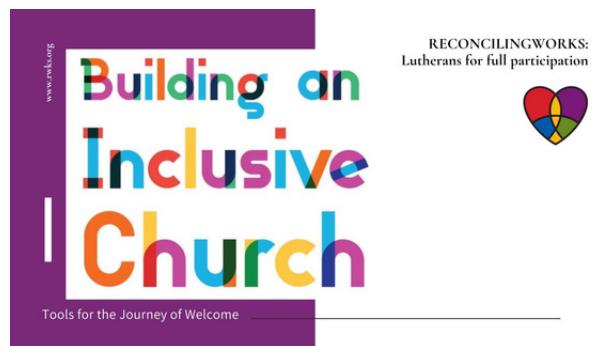
This training helps you design and implement a journey for your faith community to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and incorporate a commitment to the work of racial equity. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways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

Upcoming Online Trainings:

1. March 14th, 2026
2. May 9th, 2026

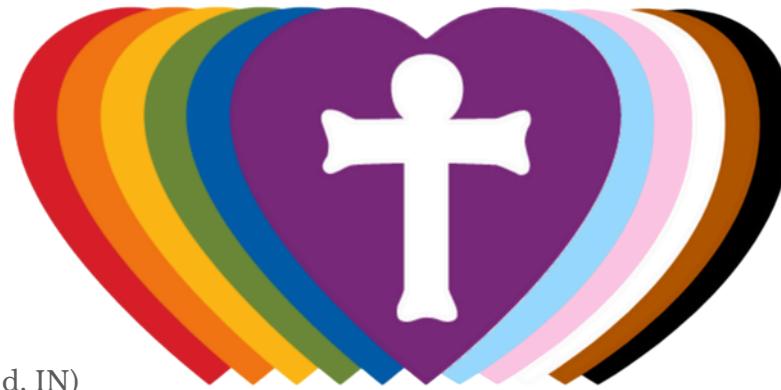
<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/bic/>

LEARN MORE
HERE



CELEBRATING NEW RIC PARTNERS

Unity Lutheran Church (Southgate, MI)
Salem Lutheran Church (Moline, IL)
Cross Lutheran Church (Burlington, WI)
Mount Olive Lutheran Church (Surrey, BC)
Hope Lutheran Church (Temecula, CA)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Marshfield, WI)
St. John's Lutheran Church (Beaufort, SC)
Grace Lutheran Church (Raleigh, NC)
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (South Bend, IN)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Jericho, VT)
Atonement Lutheran Church (Overland Park, KS)
Christ Lutheran Church (Ferndale, WA)
King of Kings Lutheran Church (Shelby Township, MI)
St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Albion, IN)
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (Minneapolis, MN)
Faith Lutheran Church (Arlington, VA)
The Table Lutheran Church (Bloomsburg, PA)
Five Points Lutheran Church (Blue River, WI)
St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Newport, RI)
St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Asheville, NC)
New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (Gilbertsville, PA)
United Lutheran Church of Long Island (Huntington Station, NY)



NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PUBLIC WITNESS

In the current political climate ReconcilingWorks wanted to provide additional materials for people as they work for justice, liberation, and flourishing of God's people. Here are two additional resources you might find helpful.

[The LGBTQIA+ Rights & Safety Card](#) is designed as a preparation tool to help you think ahead, stay aware, and feel more confident navigating situations where safety, rights, or personal well-being may be at risk. It offers key reminders, practical steps, and resource connections to support you in moments of uncertainty.

Here is a [practical resource on digital safety for protesters](#), based on guidance from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other expert-sources. This is not legal advice, but rather a set of best-practices to help you think through how to stay safer online and offline when exercising your rights to protest.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/justice/>

