

ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Happy PRIDE

As we enter Pride season, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude, joy, and delight for this ministry and for all of you who make it possible. Every day, I am reminded that ReconcilingWorks is not simply an organization—it is a movement of people, communities, and partners who believe that God's love is expansive, inclusive, and transformative. Whether you are part of a Reconciling in Christ community, a longtime supporter, a volunteer, a donor, or someone who simply shares our vision, thank you. Your commitment, courage, and faithfulness continue to shape a church and world where LGBTQIA+ people can experience belonging, affirmation, and abundant life.

Pride season offers an opportunity to celebrate. We celebrate the resilience of LGBTQIA+ people. We celebrate the countless advocates, leaders, and communities who have worked for decades to expand welcome, justice, and inclusion. We celebrate the nearly 1,200 Reconciling in Christ partners who boldly proclaim that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are beloved and valued members of God's family.

At the same time, Pride also reminds us that our work is not finished. Across our communities, many LGBTQIA+ people still face discrimination, exclusion, and barriers to full participation in church and society. The work of racial equity, disability justice, gender justice, and LGBTQIA+ liberation remains deeply interconnected, calling us to continue growing, learning, advocating, and showing up for one another.

Yet even in the midst of challenges, I remain hopeful. I see that hope in the congregations discerning how to become more inclusive. I see it in the leaders courageously speaking out. I see it in the partnerships, relationships, and acts of love that continue to grow throughout this movement. Thank you for being part of this journey. ReconcilingWorks is honored to walk alongside you as we celebrate, advocate, and continue building a more just and inclusive church together.

-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



Worship Resources: Looking for ways to deepen welcome, inclusion, and celebration in your worship life? ReconcilingWorks offers a growing collection of free worship, liturgy, and scripture resources designed to support Reconciling in Christ (RIC) partners throughout the church year.

These resources include worship planning supplements, prayers, hymn suggestions, children's message ideas, RIC anniversary liturgies, PRIDE worship materials, seasonal devotionals, and scripture resources that help congregations more intentionally celebrate and affirm LGBTQIA+ people in worship.

Whether your community is planning a special worship service, seeking more inclusive liturgical language, or looking for ways to celebrate your commitment to welcome and justice, these resources can help your congregation create worship experiences that more fully reflect God's love for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

If there is something you would like to see developed, we invite you to reach out and share your ideas with us.

Together, we can continue building resources that equip congregations to live more fully into God's expansive love and welcome.

**EXPLORE THE FULL
COLLECTION OF FREE
RESOURCES AT**





DEACON DAVID BEHLING, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This spring was busy for me, primarily with the RIC Partner Listening Sessions that began in April and continued through May and into the first two weeks of June. Over 100 different faith communities and ministries participated, with a few dozen more submitting answers to the accompanying survey if a Listening Session wasn't going to fit into their busy schedules.

Listening to congregational leaders serving their faith communities in a wide variety of ways, I am struck by your passion and commitment to the concept of hospitality, which lies at the heart of the RIC journey and identity. Thank you for participating in a listening session or submitting the survey [the link is below in case you missed it earlier!]; I will do my best to provide the support you need to sustain your own passion and commitment to this work.

I continue to be filled with joy and 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.

And REMEMBER, 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, I am here 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

As we move into summer – earlier worship times for some, an adjustment to more sunshine (I'm in the Pacific NW), and of course PRIDE celebrations, I continue to be grateful I get to be a part of this holy work.

One of the recent changes I shepherded was moving to a new phone (VoIP) provider; hopefully no one even noticed as we intended it to be seamless! Some changes that I hope are noticed are changes to the website to make information you need easier to access, including:

1. Under the RIC Program menu: [Mapping Your RIC Journey](#) has more information and [Worship Resources](#) are now accessible here (and also under Resources).
2. The [About > Contact Us](#) page is more comprehensive.
3. The [News & Events](#) page continues to share recent news, and now also shows ReconcilingWorks "Upcoming Events" in chronological order – everything in one place! And, of course, clicking on any event gives you more information and the link to the relevant webpage.

I also want to thank those folx who reach out to me letting me know about any concerns you have or typos you notice – I appreciate you letting me know so I can address/correct the issue. I appreciate you and your attention to detail! And for course – Happy PRIDE! This month brings a multitude of emotions, memories, and hopes. I recently heard Anne Lamott describe laughter as "carbonated holiness." I hope and pray you experience such "carbonated holiness" and joy abounding however you choose to celebrate.

DAVID LUECHT SEMINARY INTERN

I began interning with ReconcilingWorks in January 2026. I remember the initial meeting with my Supervisor and staff. I was attending the Q Faith Conference in Portland Oregon, representing the ELCA and Wartburg Theological Seminary at a convention table with other ELCA seminaries. We met in a coffee shop, I was nervous, and I had so many questions about what my internship was going to look like. I considered myself truly fortunate to be able to intern with ReconcilingWorks, a not-for-profit organization that is in the forefront of working with faith-based communities, synods, and congregations focusing on inclusion and hospitality to our beloved LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ. Their focus on anti-racism, and advocacy for those who have experienced marginalization also matched my call into Word and Service, as a Deacon.

As I reflect back on my 6-month internship with ReconcilingWorks, the work I have been engaged in has been fulfilling. The vast opportunities to work with, listen to, and engage with faith communities and synods regarding how we live out our lives as Christians, loving our LGBTQIA+ siblings and supporting them through the work of RIC has been invaluable. Co-leading a Building an Inclusive Church workshop offered me a chance to be involved with a training. The opportunities to reach out to congregations in the Journey of Discernment, co-create the Pride Service, Bible Study, LGBTQIA+ devotional, and highlighting RIC Legacy communities of faith are a few of my accomplishments as an intern.

I thank the RWks team for their support, encouragement, and guidance throughout my internship with ReconcilingWorks.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR DEEPENING & EXPANDING WELCOME



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.



**PURCHASE
RESOURCES
HERE**



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

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.

CONTINUED:WEBSITE UPDATES

JUMP MONTHS CURRENT MONTH

JULY 2026

03 2026 FRI JUL OFFICE CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY ● (All Day; Friday) (GMT-05:00)	06 2026 MON - THU JUL ELCA ROSTERED MINISTERS GATHERING FOR ALL ELCA DEACONS, PASTORS AND BISHOPS (UNDER CALL, ON LEAVE OR DISABILITY OR RETIRED) AND CANDIDATES APPROVED FOR CALL. ● 5:00 pm - 11:00 am (9) CT (GMT-05:00) ⓧ Duration: 2 Days 18 Hours	16 2026 THU JUL BIBLE STUDY - GOSPEL TEXT FOR SUNDAY, JULY 26 A SACRED SPACE TO GATHER, LEARN, AND GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER. ● 3:00 pm CT (GMT-05:00) Online: Zoom
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STAY CONNECTED WITH THE NEW RECONCILINGWORKS EVENT CALENDAR

Looking for opportunities to learn, connect, and grow with ReconcilingWorks? We are excited to announce a new Event Calendar on the ReconcilingWorks News & Events page!

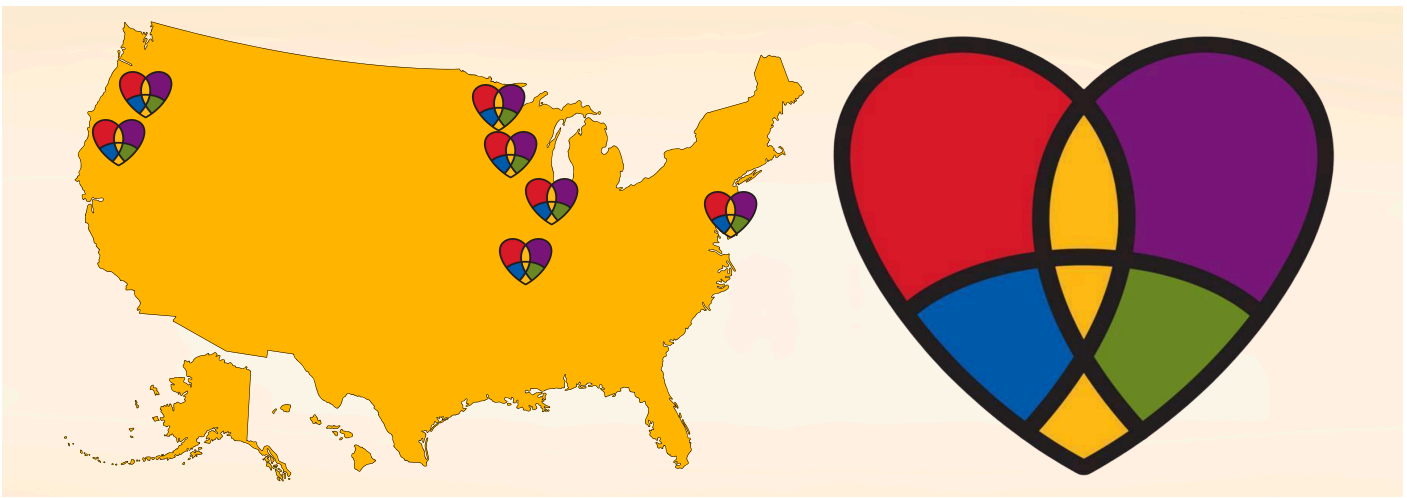
The calendar is designed to help you easily find upcoming trainings, workshops, Bible studies, book club gatherings, webinars, special events, and other opportunities to engage with ReconcilingWorks throughout the year. Whether you are a longtime Reconciling in Christ partner, a community in discernment, a rostered leader, or someone seeking to deepen your understanding of LGBTQIA+ inclusion and advocacy, the calendar is your one-stop place to stay informed.

Be sure to check the calendar regularly for new events, registration opportunities, and ways to connect with others committed to creating a church and world where people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are fully welcomed, included, celebrated, and advocated for.

Visit the ReconcilingWorks homepage today and explore what's coming up—we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming gathering!

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR 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 few months.

 **Portland, OR:** Staff Gathering

 **Chicago, IL:** Queer Symposium & Metro Chicago Synod Assembly

 **Tacoma, WA:** Multi-Cultural and Intersectional Gathering

 **Hamilton Township, NJ:** Ministerium Day

 **Duluth, MN:** In-Person BIC Training

 **Tomah, WI:** Winter Theology Day

 **St. Louis, MO:** Youth Ministry Extravaganza

Are you looking for a speaker, workshop facilitator, preacher, or training leader for your congregation, synod, campus ministry, or organization? ReconcilingWorks would love to partner with you!

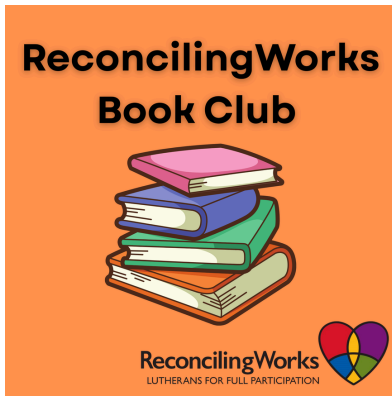
Our staff offers a variety of presentations, trainings, and workshops focused on LGBTQIA+ inclusion, Reconciling in Christ, Building an Inclusive Church, intersectional justice, gender justice, hospitality, advocacy, and creating communities of belonging. We can work with your group to tailor a presentation or training that meets your specific needs and goals.

Whether you are planning an educational event, leadership training, conference, retreat, Pride celebration, or worship service, we invite you to reach out and start a conversation about how ReconcilingWorks can support your community.

To request a speaker, schedule a training, or learn more about available opportunities, visit the Contact page on the ReconcilingWorks website and connect with our team. We look forward to partnering with you as we work together toward a church where people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are fully welcomed, included, celebrated, and advocated for.

**CONTACT US
HERE**



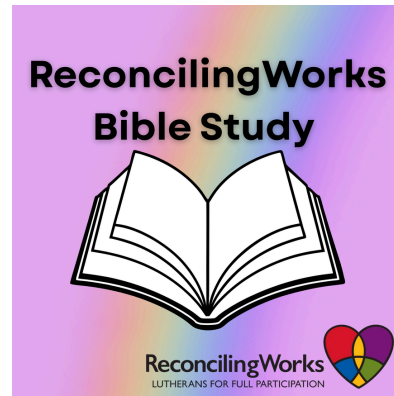


JOIN THE RECONCILINGWORKS QUARTERLY BOOK CLUB

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!



**BOOK CLUB
HERE**



JOIN THE RECONCILINGWORKS MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

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.

**BIBLE STUDY
HERE**



BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

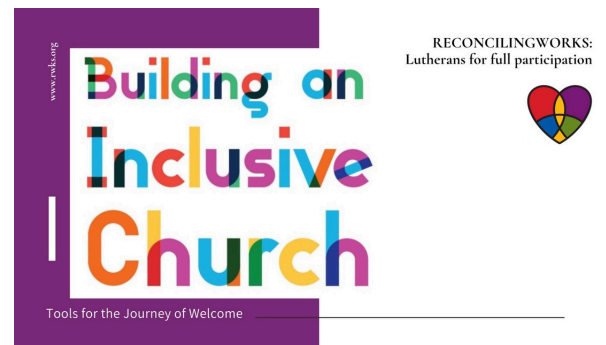
[Building an Inclusive Church Training & Toolkit](#)

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. Online: Saturday, September 12, 2026
2. Online: Saturday, November 7th, 2026
3. Online: Saturday, March 13th, 2027
4. Online: Saturday, May 8th, 2027

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



**LEARN MORE
HERE**



ELCA PARTNERS CELEBRATING PRIDE:



Bridge of Peace Community Church, Camden, NJ



Living Mosaic, Houston TX



Lake Park Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI
Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA Ministry Team



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Raleigh, NC



Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA



Christ Lutheran Church and The Bridge Campus Ministry, Athens, OH



Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, PA

CELEBRATING NEW RIC PARTNERS



First Evangelical Lutheran Church (Nashville, TN)
Christ Lutheran Church (Walla Walla, WA)
Joy! Lutheran Church (Gurnee, IL)
Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church (Westby, WI)
Saint Luke Lutheran Church (Silver Spring, MD)
Grace Lutheran Church (Des Moines, IA)
First United Lutheran Church (Sheboygan, WI)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Saint Paul, MN)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Gresham, OR)
Christ Lutheran Church (Hellertown, PA)
Elim Lutheran Church (Petaluma, CA)
Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center (Fort Valley, VA)
Love Rising Lutheran Church (Detroit, MI)
Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church (Lincoln, NE)
Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Grand Marais, MN)
Holy Counselor Lutheran Church (Sussex, NJ)
Spirit of Life Lutheran Church (Vancouver, BC)
Windsor Heights Lutheran Church (Windsor Heights, IA)
United in Grace Church (Monroe, WA)
Atonement Lutheran Church (Boulder, CO)
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (Yardley, PA)
West Koshkonong Lutheran Church (Stoughton, WI)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Fayetteville, NY)
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (Plymouth, MN)
Hephatha Lutheran Church (Milwaukee, WI)
Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church (Winston Salem, NC)
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church (Ramsey, MN)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Tacoma, WA)
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (Atlanta, GA)
Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Duluth, MN)
First Evangelical Lutheran Church (Ellicott City, MD)
Dreams & Visions (Baltimore, MD)

