

Monthly Update

Upcoming Race Equity Opportunities:

Presentations/Workshops/Events:

Sunday, May 3, 1-4 pm - Documentary Film Screening (FREE)

“Religion, Racism, and Reconciliation”

o **Where:** Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth ([map](#))

o **Details:** Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth is hosting a screening of the documentary film “Religion, Racism, and Reconciliation,” which follows the stories of individuals and communities of faith who have engaged in addressing the issues of systemic racism. People can learn more and register by clicking this [link](#). This is a free event.

Legislative Support:

Event Summary of 2025 Rise & Repair Rally + Lobby Day (hundreds gathered for action)!

[Rise and Repair](#) – Legislative arm of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

o **Where:** State Capitol, St. Paul, MN

o **Organization:** Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light [MNIPL](#)

o **Details:** Here is the MPR [News Summary](#).

Monthly Zoom, 1st Wednesday of the Month - “Rent is Due”

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

o **Where:** [Register for Online Zoom](#)

o **Organization:** Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative - [Click](#) to learn more and get involved.

o **Details:** Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is part of a coalition urging our state leaders to prioritize supportive housing, which is a proven solution for reducing homelessness and increasing stability. Beacon hosts a monthly 30-minute Zoom call on the 1st Wednesday of the month called [Rent is Due](#), a low-commitment way to get involved with this critical need.

Truth & Healing Commission - Contact Members of Congress

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

o **Where:** [Click here to submit](#) communications to Congress

o **Details:** The ELCA Office for Witness in Society is calling on Lutherans to advocate for the establishment of a federal Truth & Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies. Communicate to your members of Congress supporting the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies Act (Senate bill [S.1723](#); House bill [H.R. 7227](#)). For more information on the National Native American Boarding School Coalition, [click here](#).



Monthly Update

Upcoming Race Equity Opportunities (continued):

Independent Learning:

ELCA - May is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Month

- o **Where:** Click [ELCA Resource page](#) and scroll down to upcoming presentations & resources.
- o **Organizations:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ([ELCA](#))

Thriving in Turbulent Times

- o **Where:** [Online interview](#) video
- o **Organizations:** Center for Action and Contemplation ([website](#))
- o **Details:** An excellent 20-minute [interview](#) with Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. In this video, Rev. Moss explains that “love without justice is simple sentimentality. And justice without love becomes legalism or brutality. But, when love and justice are married... they end up producing children. One child named ‘Liberation,’ and the other child named ‘Transformation.’”

“The Return of Manifest Destiny?”

- o **Where:** [Online YouTube video](#)
- o **Details:** Watch a powerful 30-minute [interview](#) with Mark Charles on “The Return of Manifest Destiny?” He is a Native American activist, public speaker, consultant, and author on Native American issues, as well as a journalist, blogger, Reformed pastor, and computer programmer.

Book Readings:

Here is a list of books, both new and recently read as part of recent book studies at Westwood.

New

- o “The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World,” by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- o “Ashes to Action: Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising,” by Shari Seifert

(Previous)

- o “Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day,” by Kaitlin B. Curtice
- o “Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and A Road to Repair,” by Danielle Sered
- o “Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God,” by Kelly Brown Douglas

Upcoming Dates:

Stay tuned for more details in the future but save the dates in the meantime.

- o May 25: 5-Year Anniversary of George Floyd’s murder.
- o June 19: “Juneteenth” is an annual, federally recognized holiday to celebrate and commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States.

If you are not receiving this information via email directly and would like to be included on Westwood’s Race Equity group email list, please reach out via email to [Tom Houle](#).

