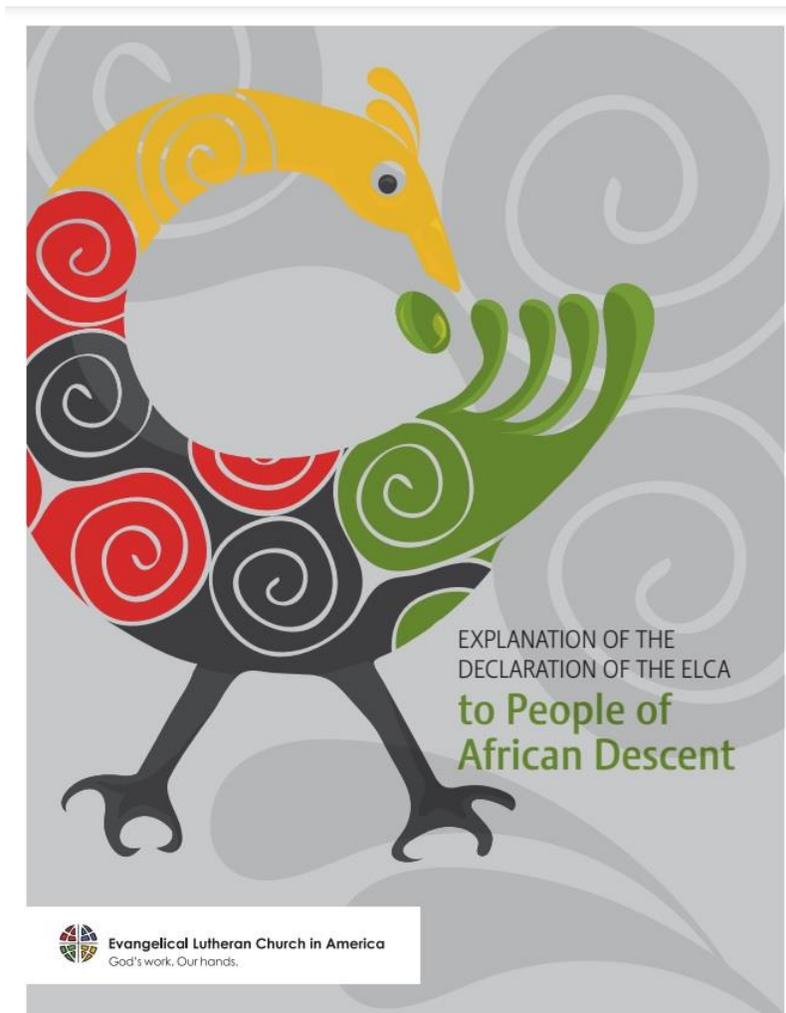


DECLARATION OF THE ELCA TO PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT



On June 27, 2019, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted the following declaration as a statement addressed to people of African descent. “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) apologizes to people of African descent for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally. We lament the white church’s failure to work for the abolition of slavery and the perpetuation of racism in this church. We confess, repent and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice.

Read or download the full Declaration with Explanation:

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf

NOW IS THE TIME: Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent - Study Guide and Materials

This study guide provides congregations with the opportunity to wrestle with the content and meaning of “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent” and its accompanying explanation.

The primary audience for this study guide is the majority-white membership of the ELCA. “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent” is an acknowledgment of the church’s complicity in slavery and the perpetuation of systemic racism. The study guide focuses on deepening understanding of that history and engaging white people in conversation on the meaning and impact of slavery and systemic racism. Racism is a white problem and requires white understanding and responsibility to effect change within white communities and congregations.

Watch NOW IS THE TIME Introduction and Discussion video:

<https://vimeo.com/685940190>

Read or download the Study Guide:

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/DECLARATION_OF_PEOPLE_OF_AFRICAN_DESCENT_Study_Guide.pdf

Read or download Participant Materials:

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/DECLARATION_OF_PEOPLE_OF_AFRICAN_DESCENT_Participant_Materials.pdf

Additional ELCA Resources on Social Justice:

<https://elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice>