



European American Lutheran Association **EALA**

To be a visible and nameable anti-racist witness for a cross-cultural church



EALA President Invites Your Presence

The Emanuel Nine

We commend

- The Honorable Rev. Clementa Pinckney
- The Rev. Daniel "Super" Simmons
- The Rev. Sharonda Coleman- Singleton
- Brother Tywanza Sanders
- Sister DePayne Middleton Doctor
- Sister Cynthia Hurd
- Sister Myra Thompson
- Sister Ethel Lance
- Sister Susie Jackson

to the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all, to the Holy Trinity, the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit, that they, martyrs each, may wear the crown of glory.

The EALA Board is preparing a statement for the summer issue.

Spring 2015

Inside this issue:

- General Assembly Invitation 1
- Challenge White Privilege 1
- Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2
- Advocacy as Faith 2

Dear Partners In This Ministry,

It is with great joy that I invite you to our 2015 General Assembly to be held at the

Lutheridge Conference Center, Arden, NC, (Asheville area) on September 10 - 12, 2015.

We are so happy to be able to meet with our brothers and sisters in the Latino Lutheran Association. We have been trying to meet with other ethnic associations so we can learn more, build better relationships, and be stronger allies. Watch for an EALA News Announcement with registration and cost details.

In the business portion of our time together, there are important constitutional changes that we need to address, plus the election of our Board members and officers. You will hear

about the work of our EALA is being done both in individual, local settings, and on a churchwide scale. You will be surprised and pleased about how much is being done, AND how much needs to be done.

I also invite you to contact me anytime with questions, concerns, suggestions for our work of creating an antiracist, cross-cultural church and society. My contact information is given below. God's blessings to you all.

Pastor Fred Thomas-Breitfeld
President, European American Lutheran Association

Pastor, Jackson Park Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI
414-545-2828
pastorfred81@gmail.com

An Opinion: A Challenge to Our White Privilege

“Those of us who are considered white in our society have much work to do to counter-act our society that was created to benefit white people, and marginalize others. In a country where the top 100 wealthiest people have more resources than the bottom 150 million, and where the majority of people that are incarcerated are people of color, it is hard to make the argument that white privilege and racism are not realities. It is our responsibility to educate ourselves. Part of that education is the realization that these separations and divisions caused by white privilege are toxic to us, as well as those that are marginalized. We need to learn to live differently, loving

all people, and finding the face of God in each person. We must embrace the example of Jesus of creating inclusive community, opposing the individualism of our society, and acknowledging that the resources of our world are given by God bountifully for all people to thrive. It is the responsibility of those of us who have been blessed with more than we need to ensure that others have what they need. This involves confronting the structures that distribute resources disproportionately. We need the partnership of other cultures to let us know when we are too blind to see that we are not accomplishing those goals. We also need to learn

that by standing silently by, while others are oppressed, makes us complicit in the oppression.”

This is a portion of the EALA News Item emailed to partners on June 10 written by EALA Board of Directors' Member Cathy Crimi entitled "White Privilege Conference Reflections". The 16th Annual White Privilege Conference took place in Louisville, KY March 11-14. Cathy's entire "White Privilege Conference Reflections" can be seen at our EALA website, crossculturalchurch.org. The website with information for next year, April 14-17 in Philadelphia, is whiteprivilegeconference.com.



<http://j.mp/EAD0415>

we have faced the reality of mass incarceration and corporate exploitation, and now call for national policies that bring liberation both to the prisoner and to a world in need of restoration. "

[Join the EALA as a registered partner, working for racial justice and inclusion at \[crossculturalchurch.org\]\(http://crossculturalchurch.org\) !](#)

A Worthwhile Event for You—Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD)

Held annually in the Washington DC area, EAD begins on Friday and ends on Monday with Lobby Day on Capitol Hill in April. The 13th EAD was held April 17-20 at the Double Tree Hotel, Arlington (Crystal City), VA. Always included are plenary sessions and many workshop choices which look at the theme locally, nationally, and globally. Theme this year was “Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration & Systems of Exploitation” with over 1,000 participants and more than 60 religious affiliated organizations, including the ELCA, as sponsors.

EALA Board Member Pastor Russell Meyer moderated the workshop “No Place for a

Child: Youth Incarceration and the Cradle to Prison Pipeline”. The workshop looked at the impact of direct file practices in which children and youth are tried and sentenced as adults. Recent Supreme Court rulings recognize the brain science that say youth are not adults, but several states, especially Florida, continue to try children as adults. Youth incarcerated as adults are often kept in solitary confinement “for their own safety”, which in turn leads to mental and brain dysfunctions.

While our nation has 5% of the world’s population, we have 25% of the world’s prisoners. Emphasis was put on the contributions of poverty, racism, and greed expressed

within our laws, economy, and social behaviors that collude to perpetuate human exploitation and strip others of civil and human rights. Training is always included for advocacy. The two Lobby Day items this year were to advocate with one’s elected representatives to change mandatory minimum sentencing in federal cases and eliminating the detention bed quota for immigrants and implementing alternatives to detention. EAD seeks to achieve peace with justice. The 2016 EAD will be held April 15 -18 at the same location. Theme will be announced later. Their website is advocacydays.org. Make plans to attend some year.

Board Members



An Opinion: Advocacy Is Part of Christian Discipleship

Paul Bauman, Editorial Team

Advocacy has been defined as speaking up on behalf of another human. I believe it is especially needed in dealing with systems and public policies which negatively affect us and others. Jesus often spoke against the distortions of religious systems on others in his day. As His 21st century disciples we are called to speak up against those systems which destroy and negatively affect other humans today. Underlying advocacy are Jesus words to love our neighbor which becomes His call to us to express our discipleship.

So if we believe we need to be advocates, what can we do? Here are some suggestions.

1. Know the facts to describe what is happening.
2. Use the facts in your message whether spoken, emailed, or hand written.
3. Make sure your advocacy message is clear.
4. If possible create and nurture a relationship with the person or staff you are contacting.

5. Invite and engage others to join you using emails, letters, including to an editorial page, social media, and phone calls.
6. Keep advocacy messages and visits short and concise.
7. Express appreciation for the time and effort spent on behalf of your appeal.
8. Check out elca.org/advocacy

The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 236).

We are to “...live among God’s faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; **serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.**” - See more at: <http://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices>

*Editorial Team:
Paul Bauman, West Bend, WI, and
Russell Meyer, Tampa, FL*