



Southeast Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

*Covenant of Racial Reconciliation
 of the Southeast Michigan Synod*

We, the people of God at _____ Lutheran Church, recognizing that the sin of racism has distorted the community God intends for us, and desiring to be a whosoever church that by grace can grow everywhere, enter into the Covenant of Racial Reconciliation in fellowship with the congregations of the Southeast Michigan Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Whereas ...

- Racism is a sin that separates us from God and each other based on race, color, ethnic prejudice and privilege.
- Racism manifests itself in the Church and other public institutions through personal and institutional practices, teachings, and decision-making processes.
- Every thought and every act of racial prejudice harms self and others.
- The concept of race is a human construct based on physical appearance and cultural assumptions, not biological fact.

We believe ...

- Every human being is created in the image of the Triune God.¹
- Every human being is due dignity and respect, regardless of race, ethnicity or culture, for God loves every human being and shows no partiality.^{2,3}
- Every human being is in bondage to sin, and cannot overcome the sin of racism apart from God.^{4,5}
- Every human being is reconciled to God and to each other by grace through faith in Jesus the Christ.⁶

We will, with God's help...

- Strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from our thoughts and actions.⁷
- Discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.⁷
- Work actively and cooperatively to create, use, and uphold practices, teachings, and decision-making processes in our congregation that honor and respect every human being.
- Honor this covenant by actively engaging the sins of racism and racial prejudice in partnership with BRRICK (Building Racial Reconciliation In Christ's Kingdom) in our congregation, confident that this ministry of reconciliation has been entrusted to us by God.⁸

 Pastor(s)

 Date

 (Vice) President of Congregation Council

 Date

 Bishop, Southeast Michigan Synod

 Date

¹ Genesis 1: 26-27

² John 3: 16

³ Acts 10: 34

⁴ John 8: 34

⁵ Romans 3: 21-22

⁶ Romans 5: 1-11

⁷ "Birmingham Pledge", 1998 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast, Birmingham, AL.

⁸ 2 Corinthians 5: 18-20