MARCH 2020

Dear partners and friends,

It's a new year and, with it, a new era for our newsletter. Over the years, we have explored the rich tapestry of our common heritage and the diverse expressions of our faith. This year, we are excited to embark on a new journey of shared learning and mutual growth.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are grateful for your prayers and your commitment to our mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and serving with compassion and justice.

In every edition of this newsletter, we will highlight the work of our churches, synods, and other ELCA entities as they struggle with and seek to address the complex issues of our time. We will feature stories of individuals and communities living out their faith in the face of adversity and scandal.

Please join us in praying for the leaders of the ELCA and for the people and places we serve. We give thanks to God for their call to this ministry. Please join us in prayer for Carmelo and Kristen in these new roles. We give thanks to God for their call to this ministry.

The current round of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic dialogue on "teaching with difference" and the Common Mission in the U.S. and those of the Waterloo Declaration in Canada serve as full communion as established in bylaw 8.19.02." Once The United Church of Christ and the ELCA agreed to study and reflect on Martin Luther's essay "The Freedom of a Christian,"

This agreement is notable for citing the experience of indigenous people "not as an exception to the democratic process, but as a model for exercising it." In the wake of the creation of the United Methodist Church following the announcement of a proposed separation of the denomination in light of differences on issues of human sexuality. It is likely to be considered at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in St. Louis this June.

Sojourners article titled "The Faith Imperative of the NO BAN Act" authored by Kathryn Lohre and Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky. TheDynamic is continuing its Faith Over Fear trainings each training has three core components:

- Each training has three core components:
- Neighboring town for the first night's lighting. The candles are lit each night in solidarity. On Jan. 10, members of the Metropolitan New York Synod joined a call to action, in her pastoral message of Dec. 30, 2019 to support the interfaith movement for solidarity and prayer. The SERESE initiative includes interreligious dialogue, a campaign to spotlight the work of local churches, and a call to action.

Historical Black Church relations and white supremacy work assemblies and theological conferences. You can view the presiding bishop's message on the expanded travel ban in America, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL. 60631-4101

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We welcome you to explore this edition of "Ecumenical and Inter-Religious News" — that now includes the inter-religious aspect of our work to deepen relationships with ecumenical and inter-religious partners. You'll notice our new look, accompanied by a new name — "Ecumenical and Inter-Religious News." We are committed to keeping you informed about the latest developments in our shared mission of proclamation and service.

As our nation continues to see a rise in bigotry and violent hate crimes, our religious leaders and the laity are speaking out against hate and discrimination. In the wake of the anti-Semitic attacks that occurred in New Zealand, leaders across the ELCA responded with their own actions of love and solidarity. The National Council of Churches statement on anti-Semitism, issued in 1975, "affirms the basic human rights of all people in the light of the ... "Declaración de Compromiso Interreligioso: Una Declaración de Política de la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América..."

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