



Region 1 Disaster Preparedness and Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

ELCA REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE November 9, 2021

United for Ministry in the Days of COVID-19
Lutheran Social Service Agencies, Synods
and ELCA Church Members Together

Region 1 Lutheran Disaster Preparedness & Response

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November connects people of Christian faith with the saints. It invites thanksgiving and ushers in the subtly powerful season of Advent. As seen on page 4 the Gospel readings ahead of us reference natural signs and seasons easily identifiable with disasters and climate change type events. Yet, the word is always the same. "Stand up tall!" "Do not fear!" "Prepare!"

[An interesting conversation between Katharine Hayhoe and Krista Tippett of "On Being" revels in the hope existent, but rarely discussed, in the realities of climate change. "The future is still in our hands" insists Dr. Hayhoe.](#) The world is directing significant investment in needed change. Ninety percent of all new energy created in our country last year was clean energy. Historically change always happens when regular folk stand up and call for it. That is what we are seeing today.

Our problems are far from solved, but so much good is happening. Do not let fear stand in your way of action and hope. This is the message of Dr. Hayhoe, and it is the message of the season before us.

Dave Brauer-Rieke, Region 1 LDR Disaster Preparedness Project Manager.



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“They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.” Ephesians 4:18

It is generally ignorance that causes other people harm, rarely evil intent. But as Paul insists, ignorance comes from an unwillingness to learn, listen or question – a hardness of heart.

In ages past white colonizers might well have applied this scripture to “ignorant” Native peoples. As inheritors of such a sad and damaging philosophy, American Christianity today has much to atone for. One can be confident the teacher in the article to the right did not intent harm. Yet, her ignorance certainly perpetuates harm for many.



This is a 1926 photo of a Native Cahuilla woman on whose ancestral lands this event - and others like it – took place. These people were victims of colonization and the California gold rush. Today there are only about 3000 registered Cahuilla.

Why Racial Equity Matters



“Last month, a video circulated on social media depicting a white California teacher in Native American costume. As part of her lesson, she performed several minutes of “war whooping and tomahawk chopping” for a full classroom of students. A Native American student surreptitiously filmed the offensive display, reporting that he “felt violence was being committed against him and he had the right to record.” . . .

(Such lessons are) an egregious reminder of the legacies of Indigenous dehumanization that persist in our education system today,” Dr. Rita Kohli of the Institute for Teachers of Color Committed to Racial Justice told the ARD. “We must do better, and moments like this further reveal the necessity of Ethnic Studies in our schools, and how racial literacy must become a basic job requirement for K-12 teachers.”

[From ARD \(formerly Anti-Racism Daily,\) November 10, 2021](#)

Racism in all its various forms is a human disaster which is not only damaging to generations of people directly, but displayed in unjust and unequal response to people in times of natural disasters. (Unequal access to government programs, marginalization is social concern, lack of warning or counsel due to language barriers, etc.)

When people talk today about “critical race theory” the point is not that history is being changed. While possible uncomfortable, the reality is that deeper truths which affect all of us are being brought to the fore. [Should you choose to watch the video above](#), note the withdrawal and obvious pain of at least student in the classroom at this teacher’s display. A second student felt violated enough to have filmed the lesson for distribution. How can we not seek to do better?



There are 574 federally recognized Indian Nations (variously called tribes, nations, bands, pueblos, communities and native villages) in the United States. Approximately 229 of these ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse nations are located in Alaska, established in by the [Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act](#) as recently as 1971 under Pres. Richard Nixon.

Twenty nine Federally recognized tribes reside in Washington, 10 in Oregon, 4 in Idaho and 8 in Montana. Aside from Alaska's uniqueness, one can also see in Washington and Oregon the diversity that salmon culture allowed local indigenous peoples. Of course, these numbers reflect only federally recognized tribes. Many other Native communities live without formal recognition or have been lost to colonization.

The Lutheran witness of the gospel with American Indian and Alaska Native people has a history of more than 350 years. The Lutheran witness was seen among the Cherokee as they walked the infamous trail of tears and continues all the way to the Northern shores of Alaska's Inupiat Eskimo people. The ELCA's American Indian and Alaska Native membership is around 4,850. The ELCA's American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries work closely with 30 native congregations around the country and is working to open new faith communities as well.

As we seek solutions and wisdom in Region 1 of the ELCA around climate disasters, wildfires, floods and droughts, we have much to learn from Native Communities. The Alaska, Montana and the SWWA Synods all have active Native workgroups. Check with your synod office and neighboring congregations about how to get involved.

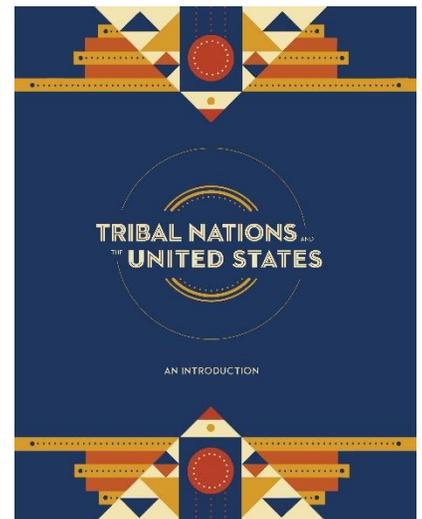


Did You Know?

9.7 Million people identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, alone or in combination, in the 2020 Census. The 9.7 million is 2.9 percent of the total population of all people living in the United States.

324 is the number of distinct, federally recognized American Indian reservations in 2020, including federal reservations and off-reservation trust land.

574 is the number of federally recognized Indian tribes in 2020. These tribes are spread across the United States from Florida to Alaska.



[Learn more about Native nations | the U.S. and their history with this free resource.](#)



[ELCA Land Acknowledgment Guide](#)

Pivot to the New – Rethink the Story

25th Sunday after Pentecost November 14, 2021

Mark 13:1-8 *“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pang.”*

We see the signs and we feel the birth pains – but do we ask what is being born? Climate change disasters awaken the world. Trust your divine Midwife. There is a new birth to be!



Christ the King Sunday November 21, 2021

John 18:33-37 *“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.”* But Jesus’ followers do not fight. They do not engage in the dysfunction of the age. We witness, work and proclaim.



Advent 1 November 28, 2021 Luke 21:25-36 *“When these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”* “These things” are fearful signs in the seas and the sky. Yet, people of faith stand tall at such times. Why? Because we do not fear? No. Because we do not stand alone!

Advent 2, December 5, 2021 Luke 3:1-6 *“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was rule of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis ...”* The ‘when’ of the Baptist’s proclamation is clearly as important as the ‘what.’ Politics are a constant companion and the context through which crooked roads must be made straight and obstacles smoothed away. **Prepare the Way of the Lord!**





Over the next few months, **tens of thousands of Afghans** will leave U.S. military bases and be welcomed as new neighbors in local communities across the country,

[Join LIRS for What's Next? Operation Allies Welcome and the State of Refugee Resettlement.](#) (Nov. 16, 1:30 PM PST)

This will be a discussion of the 2022 Presidential Determination, the current status of refugee resettlement, updates on Operation Allies Welcome, and more.



"We expect to be resettling in one given week the number of refugees we would have resettled in a year," said **Krish O'Mara Vignarajah**, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. "That is a significant ramp-up after the program hit rock bottom and was decimated during the prior administration."
[Read more in Stars and Stripes.](#)

Engage and Learn!



"I spent last week talking to all sorts of people gathered for the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, and it left me with profoundly mixed emotions.

Having been to most of the climate summits since Bali in 2007, I can tell you this one had a very different feel. I was awed by the energy of all the youth on the streets demanding that we rise to the challenge of global warming and by some of the amazing new technological and market fixes being proposed by innovators and investors. This was not the old days — everyone waiting for the deals cut by the priesthood of climate diplomats huddled behind closed doors. This was the many talking to the many — and I am buoyed by that.

But for me, there was one question that hovered over every promise coming out of this summit: ... "How in the world are we going to get big majorities to work together globally and make the lifestyle sacrifices needed to dampen the increasingly destructive effects of global warming ...?"



By **Thomas L. Friedman** Opinion Columnist
[New York Times](#)

Region 1 Congregational Network



The next Gathering for our Region 1 Congregational Disaster Preparedness Network is Thursday, November 18 5PM AK, 6PM PST, 7PM MT. [Register here.](#)

Every Gathering of the Congregational Network is 90 minutes long and involves mutual support and learning, skills building, guest presenters, and support for congregational teams working with members and neighbors on disaster preparedness. Our November meeting will focus on the connections between local disasters and climate change. Join us! All are welcome.