

March 1st, 2023

Conference of Bishops,

Greetings on behalf of African Descent¹ Ministries. It has been a blessing and a joy to serve the African Descent leaders, congregations, and communities within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our 2022 annual report has been posted to highlight the different projects and events we participated in last year and highlighted our upcoming events for 2023.



September 14th-17th, 2023 we are excited to host the Reclaim Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota where we plan to inspire rest and rejuvenation for clergy and lay leaders alike. Our themes of embody, embolden, and liberate were carefully chosen to convey our hopes for the future of African Descent Ministries. Not only is this event intended to provide resources and tools for ministry but also a place for our community to fellowship and reconnect since the pandemic.

We recognize that while not every synod has a deep pocket of African Descent congregations, most synods has at least one African Descent rostered leader, active lay person, or young adults who may benefit from such an event. Please consider supporting our leaders and alleviating the financial strain that may come when considering attending a conference, especially for young adults.

For more information about the Reclaim Gathering, go to elca.org/reclaimgathering. Registration opens in March. Workshops and leaders will be announced progressively through the spring. Thank you for your love and support of African Descent Ministries.

Peace,

Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

¹ The term African descent was intentionally selected to be expansive and inclusive of our Afro-Latino, Afro-Caribbean, African national, Afro-Arab, and Afro-Asian siblings alongside the African American community which is most commonly associated with African Descent Ministries.

