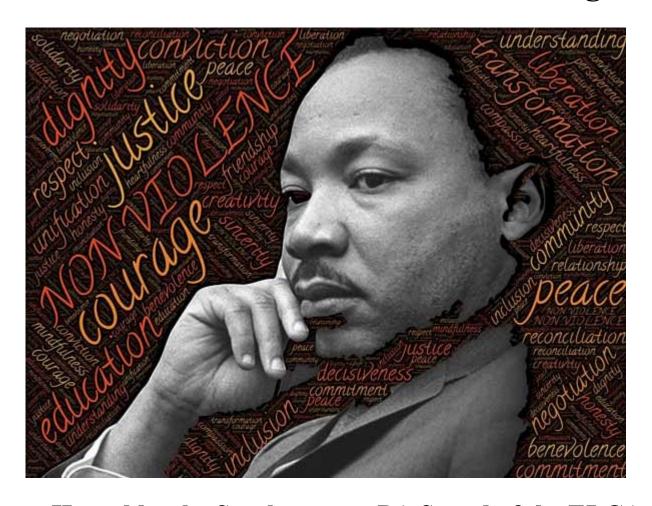
An Ecumenical Worship Service in Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.



Hosted by the Southwestern PA Synod of the ELCA April 3, 2022 4:00 p.m.



PRELUDE MUSIC

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Wayfarin' Stranger

Kum Ba Yah

Blessed Assurance

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

arr. Phillip Keveren

arr. Michael Larkin

arr. Phillip Keveren

arr. Mary McDonald

arr. Carsten Gerlitz

ORDER OF WORSHIP

▲ WELCOME

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

▲ CALL TO WORSHIP

Standing in the tradition of sounding the shofar in ancient Israel or intoning the introit in the historic Western rite, we are invited into the worship of God.

- L: Despair has encompassed the world.
- C: Fear and alienation seep into every corner of our lives.
- L: From the very beginning of creation,
- C: God's spirit hovered over the waters of discontent and fear.
- L: The chaos of the waters did not dissuade God's creative intention for this world.
- C: Even now, God's love floods over the world.
- L: In the fullness of time God sent God's own Son, Jesus Christ,
- C: who offered for us a model of peace and justice, mercy and love.
- L: But there were those who would not hear the Good News.
- C: There are those today who scoff at even the possibility of peace and mercy.
- L: Just as fear reigned in the lives of those who turned away from Jesus;
- C: so fear reigns in the lives of some people today.
- L: Peace does not even seem a distant possibility to them.
- C: But we have known the peace Christ offers. It brings light to the world.
- L: God's light is awesome!
- P: It pours rays of comfort and hope onto this world!
- L: Come, rejoice in the light!
- P: Lord, let your light flood into our hearts and spirits!
- L: Come, let us celebrate!
- P: Let us bring our praise to God! Amen.

Everywhere I go L: This little light of mine, L: C: **C**: I'm goin'-a let it shine! I'm goin'-a let it shine! L: This little light of mine, L: Everywhere I go I'm goin'-a let it shine! C: I'm goin'-a let it shine! C: L: This little light of mine, Everywhere I go L: **C**: I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, C: I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. let it shine, let it shine. **HYMN OF PRAISE** Come, All You People TFF 138 *i* -Mwa - ri; ya mo - se, na ma te Come, all peo - ple, praise the Most High; you come and Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior; Come, all peo - ple, praise the Spir - it; you come and se, Mwa - ri; ya moti - na - ma tecome, all peo - ple, come and praise the Most High; you peo - ple, the Sav - ior; come, all you come and praise Spir - it; come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; i mo - se, ya peo - ple, praise the Most High; come, all you come and come, all peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior; you praise the Spir - it; come, all you peo - ple, come and Zvii И ya mo se no.

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Lord.

Lord.

Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

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now

Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo

come

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come

Text and music © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music

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▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Let us pray. Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like your servant the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to work for justice among people and nations, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

▼ BLESSING OF LECTORS

Echoing African and African American tradition, this blessing affirms the importance of the ministry of lectors and the public reading of the scriptures as an event that brings Christ, the Word, into the midst of his people. Those bringing the Word come forward to be prayed over.

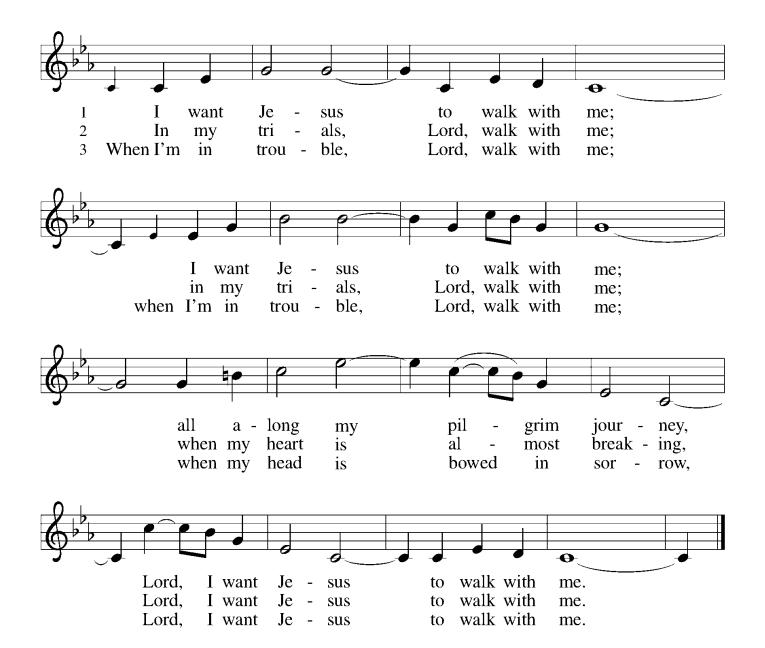
- P: Let us pray. Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Holy Spirit upon Landon, Fiona and Lamont as they proclaim the word, so that all who receive it will no longer dwell in the shadows, but will have the light of life.
- C: Amen

FIRST READING Joel 2:28-32a

L: A reading from the second chapter of Joel.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved

- L: The word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.



Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

▼ **SECOND READING** Revelation 22:1-7

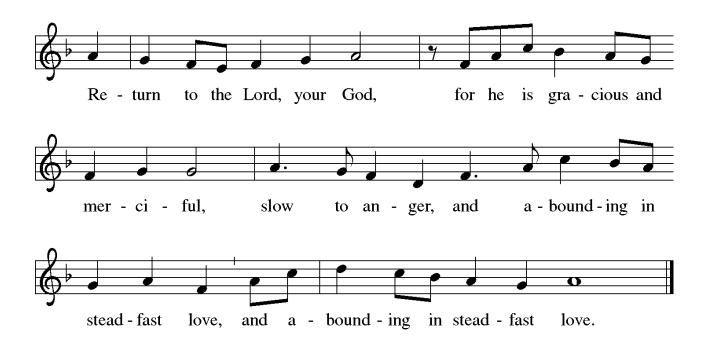
L: A reading from the twenty second chapter of Revelation.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

▲ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A Solemn Procession: Our silence is offered as we observe the anniversary of the eve of The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr's assassination.

GOSPEL Luke 4:16-21, 28-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ...

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

A Solemn Procession

▼ **SERMON** The Rev. Lamont Wells



▲ APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

▲ THE PRAYERS

A: Let us pray to the Lord who rains down justice from on high:

Holy God, we remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s struggle for equality, justice, and dignity for all people. May we continue to be inspired by the gift of his ministry and the lives of those who made his ministry possible. Through the power of your Spirit, move us to seek justice, compassion and equity in our world and in our communities. God of justice,

- C: Hear our prayer.
- A: In love, you created us in your image. You have written on our hearts the stewardship of human dignity. Help us to uphold the goodness and power in all people. God of creation,
- C: Hear our prayer.
- A: By the power of your Spirit, strengthen our commitment to show partiality. As Dr. King directed us, may we be partial to a life of service. May we be partial to a life of compassion and love. May we be partial to a life committed to nonviolence. May we be partial to a life of sacrificial giving in relationship to our brother, Jesus. God of love,
- C: Hear our prayer.
- A: Empower your church so that it will not be complicit with injustice through silence. Raise up prophets like Dr. King who will speak truth to power and advance the values of your just and bountiful reign. God of peace,
- C: Hear our prayer.

A: Grant us courage to go out in the world living out our faith through acts of love. Where hatred and indifference dwell, change our hearts, making us instruments of your peace. Bring us into your desired unity through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

▲ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Let our prayers lead us to confession and repentance:
- P: We confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice.
- C: Forgive us and move us Lord.
- P: We confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has failed to confront racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, physical, personal, and class barriers that are made manifest in unjust treatment, inequalities, systemic injustice, exclusion, and violence.
- C: Forgive us and move us Lord.
- P: We confess, repent, and repudiate the times when we have willingly or unknowingly participated in thoughts, words, and deeds that contribute to the failure of our society to respect and care for all people, especially the poor and oppressed.
- C: Forgive us and move us Lord.
- P: We confess, repent, and repudiate the times when we have turned away from opportunities to know and love our neighbor, to recognize and accept their wisdom and expertise, to embrace them as wholly human and wholly loved by God.
- C: Forgive us and move us Lord.
- P: We confess, repent, and repudiate the times when we have failed to believe that Christ's Church is for all people.
- **C:** Forgive us and move us Lord.
- C: Lead us, O Lord, in confronting racism and move us all toward fairness and justice in the church and in society, that all may benefit from your abundant grace.

P: God knows the sins that burden our hearts and even the sins unknown to us. And, God desires us to come in repentance. With a heart full of mercy and compassion, and by the cross of Jesus Christ (+), God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the Dawn from on High, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit, guides our feet into the way of new life. **Amen**

▲ **PEACE** The peace may be shared verbally with those around you.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

▼ OFFERING

Today's offering will be given to the Neighborhood Resilience Project, an organization working in the Hill District of Pittsburgh on resilient healing for a healthy community through Trauma-Informed Community Development.

- More information about the Neighborhood Resilience Project is included at the back of the bulletin.
- *Electronic giving information is on the back of the bulletin.*

MUSICAL OFFERING Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Solo

▲ OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of all things: through your goodness you have given us this bread, fruit of the earth and of human labor.
- C: Blessed be God forever!
- P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of all things: through your goodness you have given us this wine, fruit of the vine and the work of human hands.
- C: Blessed be God forever!
- P: Merciful God, as the grains once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now united on this table in bread and wine, may we who celebrate this Holy Communion be gathered into one in you.
- C: Amen

▲ HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth and created us in your likeness. You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care. All through our weary years and our silent tears, you did not abandon us to ourselves, but sought us out in love.

When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us. When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us. When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us. Through your holy prophets you called us to return to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love. In the crowning act of love you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world, but to save the world from sin.

Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- P: With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us; his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners, his healing of the sick, his care for the poor. Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine, that we who share this meal may become a holy communion, the body of Christ in the world.
- C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

- Wearing your mask, please come forward by the center aisle forming two rows.
- ° Take a cup from the trays at the front of the aisle.
- ° The Bishop will place the host in your hand. You may consume the host.
- ° Gluten Free hosts are available upon request.
- ° The Assistant will pour wine into your cup. You may consume the wine.
- Return to your seats by the side aisle placing your empty cup in the bin provided.

All are welcome to receive today.

Jesus has promised to be present in this meal for forgiveness, life and salvation.

▼ SPECIAL MUSIC

Give Me Jesus

arr. Rick Betts

▲ BLESSING AND PRAYER

- P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: Amen
- P: Let us pray. God of our ancestors, God of all people, before whose face the human generations pass away, we thank you that as the broken bread was gathered into one loaf, the broken fragments of our history are gathered up and healed by the redeeming act of Christ. Send us forth in peace, form us into what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Nourished by this sacrament, give us strength and courage to serve you in daily life with joy and singleness of heart. In the name of Christ, we pray.
- C: Amen



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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▲ CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

- P: Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

▲ BENEDICTION

P: May God bless us with new opportunities and prospects.

May Jesus Christ let his face shine on us at the sight of our neighbor.

May God, the Holy Spirit, give us new community with herself and one another.

And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.

C: Amen.

(from https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Martin-Luther-King-2018.pdf)



the faith that the dark past Sing a full of has taught us; song way that with tears has We have come o - ver a been wa - tered; stray from the plac - es, our God, where we Lest our feet met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;





Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954



DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

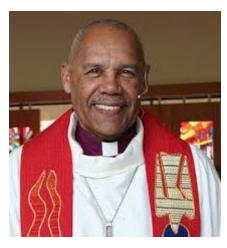
POSTLUDE

Wade in the Water

arr. Rick Betts

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WE WELCOME OUR HONORED GUESTS



Bishop Abraham Allende

Bishop Allende served as Interim Bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America earlier this year and was instrumental in bringing this service to life. We welcome him back for this special celebration.

From September of 2014 until November of 2020 the Reverend Abraham D. Allende served as the fourth Bishop of the 161 congregations in the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Prior to his election as bishop, Pastor Allende had been serving The Lutheran Church of the Covenant in Maple Heights, Ohio, since September of 2009. Pastor Allende had previously served as Pastor and Mission Developer of Iglesia Luterana La Trinidad in Canton, Ohio. He was ordained as minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on January 18, 2003.

During his time in the office of Bishop, he served as co-convener of the ELCA's Task Force for a Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity. He continues to serve on the Advisory Task Force for the implementation of the strategy. As Bishop, he also sat on the Conference of Bishops' Immigration Ready Bench, and the Global Mission Liaison Committee. He has also served on the Committee for Ministry Among People in Poverty.

A second-career pastor, Pastor Allende has held successful positions in the fields of education, broadcasting and as a professional baseball executive. He is a native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico and reared in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. Pastor Allende and his wife, Linda, currently make their home in Plain Township (Canton). He has one adult son, David, a resident of Akron.

From www.pastorallende.com/about

The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells Program Director for Campus Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LuMin).

LuMin is a network of inclusive faith-based and service communities on and near campuses at over 240 colleges and universities across the country.

He is also the current National President of the African Descent Lutheran Association (ELCA).

He is the former Assistant to the Bishop/ Director for Evangelical Mission in the Metropolitan New York Synod.



In his career, Rev. Wells has led programs and communities of multiple denominations in New York, Pennsylvania and Georgia, including having served as the Lutheran Campus Pastor for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the Atlanta University Center (AUC).

He most recently earned a Professional Certification in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from Cornell University. Previously he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Sociology at Morehouse College.

Rev. Wells has also earned a Master of Arts in Christian Education and a Master of Divinity degree in Leadership from the Interdenominational Theological Center/Johnson C. Smith Seminary.

He completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Emory University. Pastor Wells has studied Leadership at Harvard Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary and was named a clergy fellow of the Chautauqua Institute.

Pastor Wells is a member of the National Honor Society of Theta Phi and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Along with his years of service, he has received numerous honors and awards signifying his spirit of excellence, including his induction into the prestigious Board of Distinguished Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

A dynamic speaker and prophetic preacher, Rev. Wells is frequently called to address organizations, churches, conferences, convocations, retreats, and workshops in various public, social, and ecumenical communities. His prophetic message of ecumenism and social justice motivates him as a leader, team builder, and community organizer.

OFFERINGS FROM TODAY'S SERVICE WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT.

Begun by The Reverend Paul Abernathy in Pittsburgh, and currently working in the Hill District, The Neighborhood Resilience Project "establishes and promotes healthy resilience communities so that people can be healthy enough to sustain opportunities and realize their potential." (www.neighborhoodresilience.org)

More than an organization, the Neighborhood Resilience Project is a Movement working to create stronger communities and make effective social change through engagement, healing and empowerment of local communities that have been affected by racism and trauma. This movement is active throughout the nation and world.

Be a "Hope Giver:" For more information or to join the movement go to www.neighborhoodresilience.org and find them on Facebook and YouTube.



THIS WORSHIP SERVICE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SWPA SYNOD AUTHENTIC DIVERSITY AND JUSTICE WORKING GROUP:

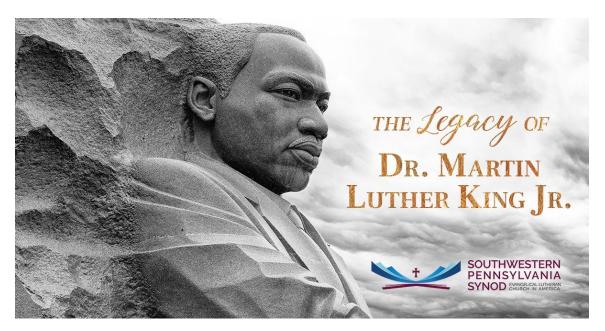
MISSION:

The SWPA Synod Authentic Diversity & Justice Working Group's mission is to build up disciples to proclaim through word and deed that the gospel of Jesus is one of liberating justice. We work to promote the full engagement of our ministerium to open up our congregations to the mission of racial justice in our regional and local contexts, and find ways for our faith to play a role in these engagements wherever they lead us.

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING:

Plans for this year include regional anti-racism training May 18, in person at Camp Lutherlyn. Watch the website for more information. Email <u>adj@swpasynod.org</u> or visit <u>www.swpasynod.org/ministries/diversity</u> to sign up for our monthly email newsletter.

Group members are Pastor Ryan Pusch (chair), Pastor Kerri Clark (secretary), Pastor Brenda Henry, Pastor Jocelyn Johnston, Pastor Martin Rafanan, Pastor Melissa Stoller (Assistant to the Bishop), and Bishop Kurt Kusserow. Bishop Abraham Allende worked with this group during Bishop Kusserow's recent sabbatical.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher The Rev. Lamont Wells

Presider The Rev. Bishop Abraham Allende

Liturgists The Rev. Bishop Kurt Kusserow, SWPA Synod

The Rev. Heather S. Lubold, Berkeley Hills Lutheran

Assisting Ministers Deb Davis and Mike Davis

Lectors Landon Dishart and Fiona Lubold

Acolytes & Crucifer Sam Coldren, Ellie Dishart, Jess Eisenbeis, Jack Mayer

Verger The Rev. Scott Bryte, Berkeley Hills Lutheran

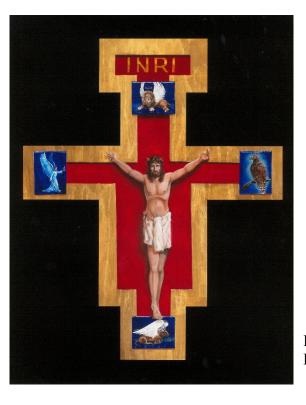
Musicians Pam Scott, Director of Music and Organist, Berkeley Hills

, percussionist.

Naomi Howard, Soloist, Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church

Tech Team Drew Eisenbeis

Ushers/Greeters Berkeley Hills Lutheran Congregation Council members



Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church 517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 Pastor Heather Lubold Pastor Scott Bryte 412-486-4010 www.BHLC.org

Pastor Scott Bryte Liturgical Art

Thank You to Our Community Partners









































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