

European American Lutheran Association (EALA)

"Allies in the struggle to dismantle racism"

Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 2

SPRING 2010

Anti-Racists Everywhere

Welcome to the EALA. We seek to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among groups and individuals committed to the work of dismantling racism in the ELCA and in society.

Website Up and Running

You can find us on the web at <http://www.elca-eala.org>

On this site you will find information about us, as well as a calendar of current events, links to resources, features such as faith journeys, and commentary on current events.

If you would like your events included on our calendar, or if you would like us to include a link to your organization contact Paul Lewellan at plewellan@mac.com

Save the Date

"Unraveling the Knot of Privilege, Power and Difference" - Allan Johnson

EALA
European American Lutheran Association
First Biennial Conference

October 28th-30th, 2010
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Workshops - Prayer - Banquet - Inspirational Speakers
Networking - Worship

The mission of the EALA is to live out our commitment to dismantle racism and white privilege by "speaking truth to power" within the institutional church and the wider society.

*Registration, Program and Accommodation Information forthcoming

In the News

In response to the "ongoing battle with race, Change.Org has launched a new website <http://race.change.org/> Follow the link to see the latest events related to issues of race in America. (Suggested by Pastor Sandy Jones)



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

My Faith Journey by Reverend Sandy Jones



Although I was born in Denver, Colorado I grew up in Southern California where the racial make-up in my high school was about 80% Hispanic, 10% African American, and 10% White. So my formation happened in a very diverse environment.

Over the years I have visited various Latin American countries many times. Even though I did not know the language I experienced the

warmest welcome and the most wonderful people I have ever met. In 1975, I spent one month living and traveling around Mexico where I

was taken in and cared for by friends and strangers alike.

In 2000 I moved to North Carolina. There I noticed that the African American and the Anglos had come to an unspoken truce. The overt racism, exhibited by both African Americans and Anglos, was directed at the increasing Latino population. This being my first time to live in the South, it was my first experience with such overt racism. I began to feel that God was calling me to serve this under served people.

In 2005 I served my internship in a small town outside of the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, where no one spoke English. I experienced what it feels like to be on the outside; to live in a place where I was not part of the dominant society; where there was a distrust for anyone and everything North American; and where a person was considered unintelligent simply because they cannot communicate in the dominant language. It was there that I knew for certain that God was calling me to serve the Spanish-speaking community in the US.

This Latino community, relegated to living in the margins, has built the most opening and welcoming church community I have ever experienced. They are a wonderful gift to the church if the church can find a way to welcome them without demanding that they "become just like us." My father used to use this tape that was indestructible; it just could not be torn. The reason is that the tape has fibers running through it in both directions; running both up and down and from side to side rather than all in one direction.

God has called me to serve this under served community and it is in this place where I experience God's love.

Upcoming Events*

EALA Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, July 2, 2010

9:00 (PST), 11:00 (CST),
12:00 (EST)

Katherine Long – President
katherineblong@verizon.net

SEIA Synod Anti-Racism Team Training in Iowa City

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

9:30-10:30

Contact Kathy Smith,
smith@seiasynod.org

EALA Board of Directors Meeting*

Friday, August 6, 2010

9:00 (PST), 11:00 (CST),
12:00 (EST)

Katherine Long – President
katherineblong@verizon.net

EALA Biennial Conference

October 28-30, 2010

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact Rev. Lyle Kleman
revprplak@mchsi.com

*If you have events you would like to appear in this newsletter, contact
Pr. Lyle A Kleman
revprplak@mchsi.com

Want to join in this effort? Go to

<http://webapps.elca.org/MultiCultural/EALA/> and

complete the membership form.



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