



**SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD** EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

A multitude of ways to commemorate the day in your community

- As a congregation
- As a family
- As an individual

MLK DAY AS A DAY OF CELEBRATION

[SWPA Synod MLK Day worship](#)

January 16, 4pm Attend in person or via livestream

Watch recording of the worship service at a later time

Watch a movie about the life of MLK, Jr.

Selma – Feature length film

Eyes on the Prize – PBS [Documentary Series](#)

MLK DAY AS A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Write down the questions that rose for you while worshipping or watching the film and include these questions for discussion:

Why do we work on racial justice as people of faith?

Jesus work is Justice work – what does that phrase mean to you?

Additional Group Study Resources:

[Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church](#). An in-depth, multi-part group study designed for a congregation or group in a congregation.

[Women of the ELCA Racial Justice Resources](#) for group discussion, conversation and Bible study

[Lament and Hope: A Pan-African Devotional Guide](#) - Designed as a monthly devotional, the questions at the end of each submission are excellent for group discussion and inviting further conversation.

Continue to engage the resources, article and sign up for the e-newsletter of the [Authentic Diversity and Justice Working Group](#) of the Southwestern PA Synod.

National Day of Racial Healing - Tuesday, January 18

As part of the adoption of the "[Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the People of African Descent](#)," a request was made to name a Day of Repentance for congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to observe annually.

The day named is the Tuesday in January following the national observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This Tuesday is already observed by several organizations as the National Day of Racial Healing which originated in 2017 under W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation efforts. Since repentance is one of the ways we work toward such healing, you are encouraged to use and adapt these resources in your context to mark this day of repentance and healing. The Declaration linked above is framed with questions and answers to encourage discussion.

[ELCA Worship resources for the National Day of Racial Healing](#)

MLK DAY AS A NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Look for Community Events

- MLK Day speakers, events, concerts
- Local Library or Community Center
- Nearby Colleges or Universities
- SWPA website for Pittsburgh area community partner events

As a congregation:

- Design a day of Service opportunity
 - Connect with local feeding ministries
 - Serve meals, organize a food drive, fundraise for a program

- Housing Justice
 - Check with a local shelter to determine the current needs:
 - organize
 - drives for gift cards, toiletries and supplies for individuals
 - experiencing homelessness
- Helping individual who are recently housed
 - Open Table or Bridges out of Poverty
 - Gather cleaning supplies, household goods,
- Habitat for Humanity projects
- Caring for victims of violence, domestic and asylum seekers
- Community Engagement
 - Learn about nearby organizations that are working on racial justice issues
 - discuss where missional offerings could be designated in the coming year.
 - Plant a Tree (if weather/region permits)
 - Make posters to share with the congregation and in Sunday School
- Advocacy
 - Write letters to elected leaders
 - ELCA Advocacy
 - Lutheran Advocacy and Ministry in PA (LAMPa)

ENGAGE RACIAL JUSTICE AND THE WORK OF MLK JR. FURTHER

Explore ELCA resources, community partners, ecumenical ministries and events

<https://www.swpasynod.org/mlk2022>

Commemorate with the King Center online

https://thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-2022/#save_the_date

Learn more about the history of MLK Day

<https://nationaltoday.com/martin-luther-king-jr-day/>

[MLK Day and Racial Justice Resources focusing on Kids and Youth](https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/8-ways-to-celebrate-mlk-day-with-kids-during-covid-19/)

<https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/8-ways-to-celebrate-mlk-day-with-kids-during-covid-19/>

[Ways to commemorate MLK Day at Home](https://camp.com/articles/ways-to-celebrate-martin-luther-king-jr-day-at-home)

<https://camp.com/articles/ways-to-celebrate-martin-luther-king-jr-day-at-home>