

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Report: GSLC Anti-Racism Team

Good Shepherd's Anti-Racism Team provides activities and outlets for individuals to explore and prayerfully reflect on racism, white privilege and unconscious bias; stand with those who face discrimination; and act to stem structural racism. <http://www.gslutheran.net/#/education/anti-racism>

We're guided by the resolution adopted by council in August 2015, *Our Response to Racism and the Murders at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Charleston, SC*. A copy of the text accompanies a print of Mother Emanuel Church hanging just outside the sanctuary, across from Pastor Jen's office.

Team members:

Kim Anderson
Corinne Baker
Bob Cottrol
Dora Cottrol

Sue Cottrol
Meredith Hurt
Daniel Jackson

Pastor Jeanette Leisk
Andrea Ponsor
Scott Ponsor

Bruce Purdy
Cassi Smith
Lori Strauss

2018 Activities

Hosted regular discussions around an article or video

Linked on GSLC's website: <http://www.gslutheran.net/#/education/anti-racism>

- *Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA? Part II*
- *Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA? Part I*
- *What Is Juneteenth?* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- *50 years ago, a presidential commission called out America's 'white racism.' It didn't go over well.* The Washington Post
- *Fifty years after the Kerner Commission, a new report cites some of the same concerns about race and poverty* The Washington Post
- *From a seat to a knee: How Colin Kaepernick and Nate Boyer are trying to effect change* ESPN.com (2017)
- *An open letter to Colin Kaepernick, from a Green Beret-turned-long snapper by Nate Boyer* Army Times (2017)
- *Ex-Green Beret Nate Boyer writes open letter to Trump, Kaepernick, NFL and America* ESPN.com (2017)



Guest preacher and forum speaker



Sunday, Feb. 25 @ 9:45 AM and 11 AM

Rev. LaMont Wells, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission, Metropolitan NY (ELCA) Synod; President, African Descent Lutheran Association.



Ramsey Homes open house, exploratory deconstruction tours

Sat. Feb. 10 @ 2 PM

The four, former Ramsey Homes, located not far from GSLC on Route 1/North Patrick Street between Pendleton and Wythe, were originally built for African-American defense workers. They were constructed in a modernist design and are early examples of the use of precast "Fabcrete" concrete panels.

Part of the City of Alexandria's public housing portfolio, they were demolished and will be replaced with a mixed-income, affordable, multi-family rental housing unit. More info on the Ramsey Homes Redevelopment and historical details (see Section 106 Review area): <http://www.vhdlc.us/ramsey-homes.html>

Lent 2018 reflection series: Civil rights leaders

Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer services

Linked on GSLC's website: <http://www.gslutheran.net/#/education/anti-racism>

- Samuel Wilbert Tucker by Corinne Baker
- Viola Liuzzo by Marlene Koenig
- Connie Jackson by Daniel Jackson
- Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. by Denise Steene
- by Kim Anderson

A.C.T to End Racism rally

Wed., April 4

- 7-8 AM: *Silent prayer walk to the National Mall*
- 8-9 AM: *Interfaith service*
- 9 AM-3 PM: *Rally and call to commitment*

On the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's assassination, we joined the National Council of Churches and other organizations to ACT Now: Unite to End Racism. We're proud that ELCA Bishop Eaton participated with other ecumenical and inter-religious partners.

Awaken. Confront. Transform: ACT now in the areas of church life and practices, criminal, economic and social justice, civil and human rights, environmental justice, media, and education.

www.rally2endracism.org



Freedom House tours

Sun., July 15 @ 10 and 11:30 AM

This historic building, that looks like so many others on a commonly-traveled road in Alexandria, once housed businesses that sold people as property. It now teaches this painful history and offices the Northern Virginia Urban League. The museum is in the basement of what remains of two slaving trading companies, Price, Birch & Co. and earlier, Franklin & Armfield, the US's largest domestic slave trading business.



March on Washington Film Festival

July 12-21

Sixth annual March on Washington Film Festival, the first was held in recognition of the 50th anniversary of THE March. Festival events are a chance to learn more about well- and lesser-known civil rights leaders, participants and events through history and to today. It's also an opportunity for important exposure to people and perspectives that may be outside our typical circles.

www.marchonwashingtonfilmfestival.org

Screening of Short African American Films

July 28, 11 AM – 3 PM | An Alexandria Black History Museum event at the Lyceum

- This Little Light of Mine: The Legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer
- Dignity and Defiance: A Portrait of Mary Church Terrell
- An Outrage
- The Hail-Storm: John Dabney in Virginia

Film & discussions: *BlackKklansman*

Sun., Aug. 12 @ 11:30 AM film with discussion following at a nearby restaurant

Sun., Aug. 19 @ 9:45 AM

BlackKklansman is based on the true story of the first black detective in Colorado Springs in the 1970s who also infiltrates the Klu Klux Klan, recruiting a white officer to be his in-person stand-in.

The film opened on August 10. Our hosted gathering on opening weekend was by design—it's when we make the most economic impact contributing, in this case, to more films by, about and featuring people of color.



Multi-Ethnic Conversations in the Church: A 3-week Intro

Sunday, October 7, 14 & 21 @ 9:45

"11 o'clock on Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week." Often attributed to Martin Luther King Jr., this observation dates to the late 1800s.

Across 3 Sundays in October, we discussed cross-cultural relationships, communication skills, and cross-cultural competence, using the book *Multi-Ethnic Conversations: A Journey Toward Unity in Your Church*.

- Discussion led by Sue & Dora Cottrol: *If the kingdom of heaven isn't segregated, why on earth is our local church?*
- Discussion led by Ann Stone: *What part should the church play in healing the rifts in society? What are the next steps?*
- Discussion 3 led by Bill MacBlane: *What are obstacles to getting out of our church comfort zone? What's the importance of relationships in a multiethnic church and how might your worldview impact as we try to build, sustain and grow a multiethnic church?*



Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church

Sat, Oct. 20, 9 AM - 2 PM

This DC ELCA New Connections event at Peace Lutheran Church, Waldorf MD featured Mosaix, a leader in helping congregations take steps toward becoming more ethnically and economically diverse for the sake of a better and more credible witness to the Gospel in our increasingly divided and cynical society.

www.mosaix.info

Racial Awareness & Mindfulness 2018

Saturday, October 20, 10 AM-5 PM | Westminster Presbyterian Church, DC

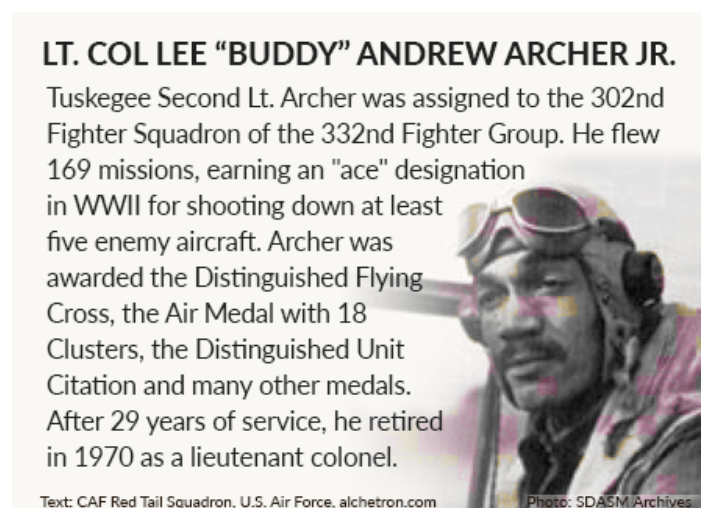
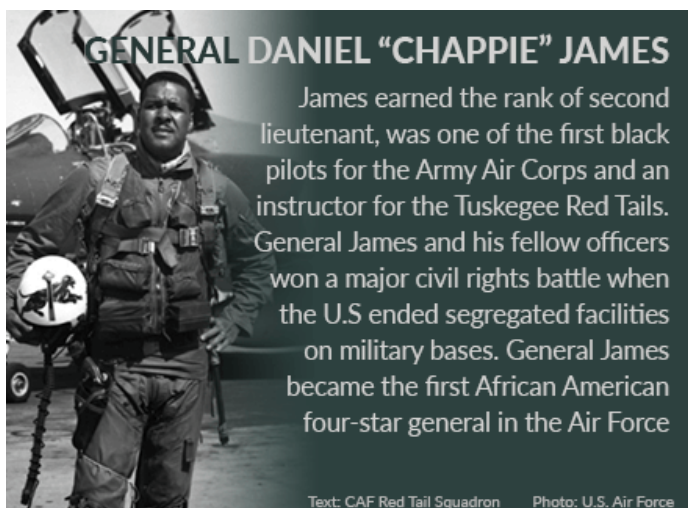
A gathering with people of goodwill to reflect on the remaining reality of racism in our society through rhythm, blues, keynote and experiential workshops. There were African-American and white groups, as well as multiracial spaces, opening awareness of privilege and supremacy, and healing years of unresolved trauma. This year's keynote speaker, National Book Award Winner Ibram X. Kendi, addressed "how to be an anti-racist" in keynote and workshop formats.

Community prayer

Second Sunday of the month @ 3 PM | Montgomery Street between Patrick and Henry

A small group of clergy, church members and sometimes residents gather near the site of a 2016 murder to offer prayers particularly for safety, protection and affordable housing in the neighborhood, across Alexandria and beyond.

Black History Month – 2018 theme: African Americans in Times of War



All are welcome to participate on the anti-racism team or in any activities that speak to them. It's our hope that a variety of forums for education, conversation and exploration help us, as individuals and a faith community, approach dialog and reflection that can be difficult and uncomfortable in an open and spirit-filled manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Baker, Chair
GSLC Anti-Racism Team
Nov. 18, 2018