

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
Racial Justice
Resource List

“Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” by Brndon Mathis

I read finally all of it and found that the first quarter was very good and informative in trying to understand more about racism and the lens that whites see through is different than African Americans. This country was founded on freedoms and rights by whites and that is a white persons lens. However, African Americans comes from a lens where the ancestry was forced to come here, and 400 plus years of slavery, and living under segregation, and white persons rules. He speaks with thoroughness and clarity offering strengths and weakness of white persons lens and African American lens also that I appreciated. He maintained that the spirit of price is the source of racism. The rest of the book I thought travelled off because he began to go more into the theology not only of racism but of other issues including LGBT and from a conservative perspective rather than seeing from many different views. The first quarter of the book was excellent.

Making Sense of Race by Rita Starr

Through different situations described speaks of how she believes that no person is born racist but it is acquired through conditioning by gross misinformation, segregation, and unresolved aggression from early childhood. From her perspective she sees education is needed and we are to learn the source of our fears. She believes that socially or genetically and theological we are one race. I think this is an informative book and good to read. Rita Starr is a founder of Healing Nations.

Devil in the Grove by Gilbert King,

reminds me of Death in a Promised Land: the Tulsa Race Riots of 1921 by Scott Ellsworth. The Devil in the Grove is about a young white girl from Groveland around 1949 cried rape and four young black African American boys were convicted. Thurgood Marshall entered in to defend the four, some of whom did not live long. The one who did not confess under beatings, was finally paroled in 1968. This is considered a description of the horrors of our justice system as well as courage of Justice Marshall. I realize this occurred before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and yet other books I have read would indicate as Brndon Mathis mentioned in that we need to go deeper “Whites see racism as a thing of the past because of legislative gains in abolishing discrimination in society and because we have voted in a Black President And often believe that every white person has adjusted their heart to times past racism and many blacks see racism as ongoing issue based on experiences socially and personally.” I believe Devil in the Grove raises awareness of our system.

Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KYJI0PECv8>

is a film in 5 parts, about 10-15 minutes per episode and can be found on YouTube. These are presentations by white people in how they saw and how they become aware of the society they live in and their whiteness and the privilege that comes with it. They talk about how they have come into or are growing into a better understanding. I think it is helpful, very helpful for a white community to understand better how we are born into a system and conditioned with white privilege and that we have much ground to cover to educate white people .

****Race: The Power of Illusion**

s a film that can be bought from NPR that Pastor Sally spoke about and it is on YouTube, in three 57 minutes episodes that cover the history of the United States and racism and how we are embedded in racism, born into it. Civil rights laws tried to address inequality but did not end it or what already happened and the responses already in place. AT the end the person suggests we need to be uncomfortable with the current arrangement and demand more of ourselves and our country. I believe both the films would be wonderful to present to congregations or a beginning to learn, especially white congregations which we have a lot of.

****“The Color of Fear”**

By the way, the group has seen “The Color of Fear” which is excellent and direct and would be good for more advanced and informed congregations. I believe it runs 90 minutes. **The Color of Fear** is an insightful, groundbreaking film about the state of race relations in America as seen through the eyes of eight North American men of Asian, European, Latino and African descent. In a series of intelligent, emotional and dramatic confrontations the men reveal the pain and scars that racism has caused them. What emerges is a deeper sense of understanding and trust.

“Cracking the Codes: A system of Racial In equality”. **<http://crackingthecodes.org/>**

At Immanuel we did watch and discussed in segments “Cracking the Codes: A system of Racial In equality”. And we spent about 8 weeks with an almost 3 hour film. Most who attended were glad they did, there were some that were uncomfortable. It explained from various points of view racial inequality helping people to understand the causes and consequences of racism and deeply embedded in our system. This also is an excellent film. I believe we saw this also in our Racial Diversity Group.

Ted Talk – Melody Hobson “Color Blind or Color Brave.” (14:14 mins.)

http://www.ted.com/playlists/250/talks_to_help_you_understand_r
Great, short video focusing on being proactive about racial justice.

Confronting Racism Webcast – ELCA <http://www.elca.org/webcast>

Eric Law – Kaleidoscope Institute <http://www.kscopeinstitute.org>

This organization offers training and resources focusing on diversity and multicultural community building.

Lenora Billings-Harris – presenter/speaker/resource

<http://www.ubuntuglobal.com>

Books:

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone

<http://www.amazon.com/Cross-Lynching-Tree-James-Cone/dp/1626980055>

** This resources are not for entry level conversation.

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Racial Justice Resource List

ELCA

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Talking Together as Christians Cross Culturally – books \$10.00
http://resources.elca.org/Evangelism-Talk_Together_as_Christians_Cross-Culturally.html

One Body Many Members – Free Download – 3 parts

Part 1

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/One_Body_Part_1.pdf?_ga=1.26832317.1869064612.1440434776

Part 2 Meeting Our Neighbors Again for the First Time

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/One_Body_Part_2.pdf?_ga=1.262374668.1869064612.1440434776

Part 3 One Body Many Members

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/One_Body_Part_3.pdf?_ga=1.229220636.1869064612.1440434776

The Cross and the Lynching Tree – James H. Cone

Jane Elliot’s Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes Exercise

“Angry Eye” Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pv8mCHbOrs>

“Angry Eye” Part 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neEVofODQOE>

“A Class Divided” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/etc/view.html>

OTHER:

The Southeastern Synod sent a resolution and held subsequent sessions throughout their synod
Two Resolutions were offered by the Virginia Synod Outreach Team in two consecutive yea