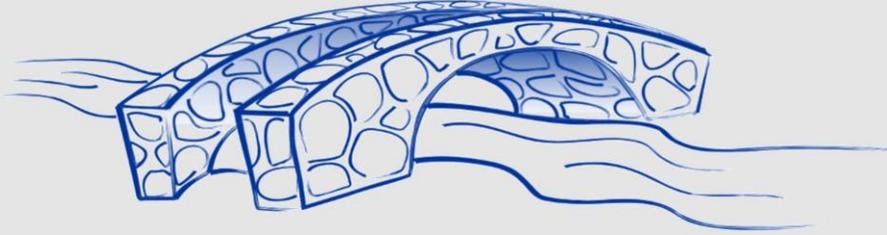Building Bridges   Racism, Diversity, and Justice
2018 Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Assembly
May 4 - 6, 2018

ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA SYNOD
Boldly Sharing God's Grace with Everyone!

Workshops

1:30-3:45 PM

John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park and Center   Ava Fisher, Julius Pegues
Prince of Peace, Tulsa

Join this field trip to the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park and Center. Reconciliation Park is the result of the 2001 Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. Opened in 2009, the park memorializes the Tulsa Race Riot, called the worst civic disturbance in American history and tells the story of African Americans' role in building Oklahoma. The park features two primary art elements, created by Ed Dwight, the first African-American astronaut and prominent Denver artist. The John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation is committed to transforming the bitterness and mistrust caused by years of racial division, even violence, into a hopeful future of reconciliation and cooperation for Tulsa and the nation.

Movie: *The Color of Fear*   Horace Pratt
First Lutheran Church, Tulsa

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. This is the dialogue most of us fear, but hope will happen sometime in our lifetime.

Building Bridges   Heather Pratt
Good Shepherd, Fayetteville

Join us for a training workshop that will equip you to have difficult conversations about racial inequality, and help you diffuse the situation when emotions start to get in the way of having a meaningful and productive conversation. We will also discuss how our Black friends and associates want us to come alongside them in working to address racism. You will have the opportunity to practice what you learn in a safe environment and we will point you to supplemental resources that can take your learning and conversations to the next level.

1:30-2:30

One Body, Many Members   Judith Roberts
                                        ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice

This resource is different from most.

 A missional congregation welcomes and accompanies the neighbor. However, how do we accompany our neighbor when they are from a different story, race, ethnicity, culture, class? *One Body, Many Members: a Journey for Christians across Race, Culture and Class* can provide tools to get to know the story of our own congregation first and then hear the story of those you are not familiar. You won't be immersed in a book and you won't have pages to turn in sequential order. As in our life journeys, we start where we are – often not in the same place as someone else heading toward the same destination. The interactive website includes bible study, activities and discussion questions to equip congregations to reach out and fully welcome persons whose race, culture and class is different than their own.
Visit elca.org to view the One Body, Many Members.

Privilege Walk   D'Andre Jones
                                                            Fayetteville, AR

Join our keynote speaker for further conversations about how privilege shapes our lives and experiences in American Society through an exercise called a "Privilege Walk." This is an exercise you can bring back to your local congregation to begin your own conversation about reality of privilege and what it means.

2:45-3:45

One Body, Many Members - Repeated.

"White Privilege": Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack   Pastor Jenny Pratt
                                        Chaplain, St. John's Medical, Tulsa
                                                    Pastor Sally Houck
                                                    Salem, Stillwater

"I never asked for any privilege!" many light-skinned American protest when they hear this phrase. Peggy McIntosh of Wellesley College understands this, and yet points out that we carry privilege anyway, as if in an 'invisible backpack'. This is an experiential workshop designed so that you can 'take it home' or, or simply participate and reflect.