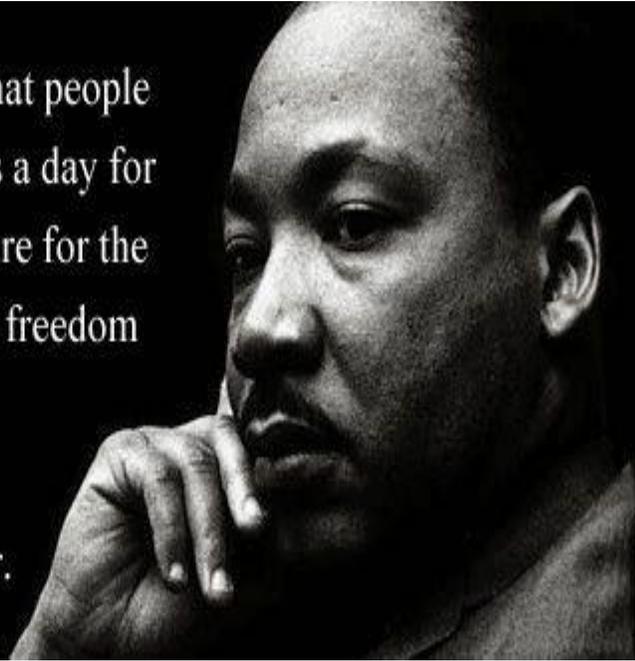


"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for the minds and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



**The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
2021 Annual Commemoration Service**

The Northeastern Ohio Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
with the Cleveland Chapter of the
African Descent Lutheran Association

Theme: *“The Audacity to Hope”*

Sunday, January 17, 2021 - 3:30 PM

Guest Speaker – The Reverend Tiffany Chaney

Chief Diversity Officer for Baptist Health, Montgomery, Alabama
Pastor Developer for Gathered by Grace, SES/ELCA
National African Descent Lutheran Association, Communications Chairperson

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Renewer of Society, Martyr, 1968
Martin Luther King, Jr. selected quotes

Bishop Laura Barbins,
Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA

A Baptist minister, Martin Luther King Jr. led the African American civil rights movement out of his passion for the poor and the disenfranchised, his dedication to nonviolence, and his devotion to Jesus. He modeled Christian nonviolent disobedience to unjust laws. His contributions to American society were recognized when in 1986 his birthday, January 15, was designated a federal holiday, now celebrated on the third Monday in January. An alternate date for his commemoration is his death day, April 4.

Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude.

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. So, when Jesus says, “Love your enemies,” he is setting forth a profound and ultimately inescapable admonition. Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies— or else? The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. The one who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

GATHERING HYMN

Song of Hope

First Lutheran Choir
First Lutheran, Strongsville

WELCOME

Pastor Chuck Knerem,
First Lutheran, Strongsville

GREETINGS

Caroline Cole
President, ADLA Cleveland Chapter/Deacon, New Covenant, East Cleveland

Pastor Julianne Smith
Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, NEOS

LIBATIONS

Pastor Mulba Borsay
East Cleveland/Calvary

We pour libations for a few notable Civil Rights leaders who died in America and in Africa during 2020. Although this 2020 necrology list is absent of the names of many women, the movement could not move without the vast names of sung and unsung women, movers and shakers, co-leaders, mothers, daughters, and sisters. Woman Civil Rights leaders fill our lives, our communities, our families, our minds and our hearts. They equally share in the stories of those we name today. We pour a double portion of libations for them as we name our 2020 list.

2020 NECROLOGY LIST

Dr. Phyllis Harding and Linda Lee Thomas
Advent/Cleveland

The Rev. Darius L. Swann, 95. His challenge to the notion of segregated public schools helped spark the use of busing to integrate schools across the country. March 8

The Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, 98. A veteran civil rights leader who helped The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and fought against racial discrimination. March 27.

Denis Goldberg, 87. He was accused No. 3 in the Rivonia Trial, alongside the better-known Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, where he was also the youngest of the defendants. He was imprisoned for 22 years. April 29.

John Lewis, 80. An icon of the civil rights movement whose bloody beating by Alabama state troopers in 1965 helped galvanize opposition to racial segregation, and who went on to a long and celebrated career in Congress. July 17.

The Rev. C.T. Vivian, 95. An early and key adviser to The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who organized pivotal civil rights campaigns and spent decades advocating for justice and equality. July 17.

The Rev. Robert Graetz, 92. The only white minister to support the Montgomery bus boycott and who became the target of scorn and bombings for doing so. Sept. 20.

Bruce Carver Boynton, 83. A civil rights pioneer from Alabama who inspired the landmark “Freedom Rides” of 1961. Nov. 23.

Jean Graetz, 90. She was as active as her husband, The Rev. Robert Graetz, was in the civil rights struggle. Her death also reminds us of the many mothers, wives, and daughters who were equally active as the many men mentioned today. Dec. 16

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Mulba Borsay
East Cleveland/Calvary

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like your servant Martin Luther King Jr., to work for justice among people and nations, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A reading from Micah 6: 1-8

Bryan Penrose
NEOS, Vice-President

1 Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. **2** Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. **3** “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! **4** For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. **5** O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered

him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” 6
“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before
him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body
for the sin of my soul?” 8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of
you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Pastor Gwendolyn Snell
ADLA Vice-President, Cleveland Chapter/New Covenant, East Cleveland

HYMN OF PRAISE

The Things We Do
Stephanie Long, Soloist
ADLA Secretary, Cleveland Chapter / Deacon, New Covenant, East Cleveland

The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 25:31-45

Pastor Tiffany Chaney
Gathered by Grace, Montgomery, Alabama

Glory to you, O Lord

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne
of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand
and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are
blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I
was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I
was in prison and you visited me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we
saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it
that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it
that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you,
just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ 41 Then
he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire
prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and
you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not
give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, ‘Lord,
when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not
take care of you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the
least of these, you did not do it to me.’ The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Audacity of Hope

Pastor Tiffany Chaney
Gathered by Grace, Montgomery, Alabama

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh How He Loves You and Me

Dr. John Clay
Advent, Cleveland

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions incorporating Martin Luther King, Jr. quotes

INTERCESSOR 1

Kia James
New Covenant, East Cleveland

There is nothing now in poverty. What is now, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it. Let us pray that we use the resources of the earth to end poverty.

INTERCESSOR 2

Jasmine Steighner
Good Shepherd, Conneaut

Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any land, in any city at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the necessities of life? There is no deficit in human resources. The deficit is in human will. Let us pray that we use the resources of the earth to end hunger.

INTERCESSOR 3

Tanazia Adams
Euclid, Euclid

True compassion is more than flinging a coin at a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. Let us pray to reverse systems that perpetuate hunger and poverty.

INTERCESSOR 4

Kiev James
New Covenant, East Cleveland

“All this is simply to say that all life is interrelated. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality; tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich even if he has a billion dollars. As long as diseases are rampant and millions of people cannot expect to live more than twenty or thirty years, no man can be totally healthy, even if he just got a clean bill of health from the finest clinic in America. Strangely enough, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. Let us pray that there will be equity in our cities, states, countries and in our world in order that we all may be what God created us all to be.

INTERCESSOR 5

Patricia Weiss
Euclid, Euclid

Hunger is not an issue of charity. It is an issue of Justice. Let us pray that we follow in the footsteps of the prophets who seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in the sight of God and in all places in our society as we bear the light and the cross of Christ our Savior throughout the world.

Amen.

OFFERING**ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund**

Pastor Nathaniel Adams
ADLA Treasurer, Cleveland Chapter/Euclid, Euclid

Help people and ministries affected by COVID-19. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) continues to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need. To continue this important work, the church needs your help.

With congregations and ministries across the country, and a network of companion churches and partners in over 70 countries around the world, we anticipate this crisis will affect us all. In the United States, unemployment has soared. We see rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care.

Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God. You can help by supporting your congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund. Your donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need.

(2020) Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<https://community.elca.org/advanced-donation-form/covid-19-response-fund>

OFFERTORY HYMN

Precious Lord

Olivia Shelton, Trumpet
Celebration, Chardon

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

Martin Luther King, Jr. selected quotes

Pastor Leonard Killings
Advent, Cleveland

Let us, like The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture of their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up.

CLOSING REMARKS

From Strength to Love, Harper & Row, 1963

Bishop Laura Barbins
Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force, so beautifully exemplified in the life of our Christ, is the most potent instrument available in mankind's quest for peace and security.

SENDING HYMN

We Shall Overcome

Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Sponsored By:

African Descent Lutheran Association, Cleveland Chapter
Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Guest Speaker: The Reverend Tiffany Chaney

Chief Diversity Officer for Baptist Health, Montgomery, Alabama

Pastor Developer for Gathered by Grace, SES/ELCA

National African Descent Lutheran Association, Communications Chairperson

NEOS-ELCA Participants:

Bishop Laura Barbins	Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA
Bryan Penvose	NEOS Vice-President / Zion, Valley City
Pastor Julianne Smith	Director for Evangelical Mission NEOS / Assistant to the Bishop
Caroline Cole	ADLA President, Cleveland Chapter / Deacon, New Covenant, East Cleveland
Pastor Gwendolyn Snell	ADLA Vice-President, Cleveland Chapter / New Covenant, East Cleveland
Stephanie Long	ADLA Secretary, Cleveland Chapter / Deacon, New Covenant, East Cleveland
Pastor Nathaniel Adams	ADLA Treasurer, Cleveland Chapter / Euclid, Euclid
Pastor Leonard Killings	ADLA Region 6 Representative / Advent, Cleveland
Tanazia Adams	Euclid, Euclid
Pastor Mulba Borsay	Calvary, East Cleveland
Dr. John Clay	Advent, Cleveland
Dr. Phyllis Harding	Advent, Cleveland
Kia James	New Covenant, East Cleveland
Kiev James	New Covenant, East Cleveland
Pastor Chuck Knerem	First Lutheran, Strongsville
First Lutheran Choir	First Lutheran, Strongsville
Olivia Shelton, Musician	Celebration, Chardon
Linda Lee Thomas	Advent, Cleveland
Jasmine Steighner	Good Shepherd, Conneaut
Patricia Weiss	Euclid, Euclid