

Southwestern Minnesota Anti-Racism Team (SMART)

Vision Statement

The mission of SMART is to help our synod live out the Great Commandment which is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and *love your neighbor* as yourself (Mark 12:30).”

We seek to do this by helping to equip congregations to fulfill the Great Commission which is to “Go therefore and *make disciples of all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19).”

Understanding our commitment to love and to make disciple, we will lead the community of faith *to acknowledge and repent of the sin of racism*, as we help the Southwestern Minnesota Synod fulfill the vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America concerning racism.

Our goal is to help the synod become more racially inclusive by addressing the twin realities of white privilege and systemic racism in our churches. We believe that racism can be dismantled through the work of Spirit, prayer, Bible study, education, advocacy, and collaboration with individuals and/or groups within the synod.

As forgiven children of God, we affirm that this work is mandated by the Spirit--in the Holy Bible--as evidenced by John’s revelation of The Church of God. He stated, “After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, *from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages*, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.” (Revelation 7:9)

May God hasten the day that the ELCA looks like this vision of heaven!

Mission Statement

As forgiven children of God and through the work of the Holy Spirit we will help congregations

- learn to love all our neighbors
- acknowledge and repent of the sin of racism
- become one tribe of many people and languages