



Southwestern Minnesota Synod

## Anti-racism Training: *Taking the Next Step*

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

**Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar**

**10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Are you looking for a safe and brave space to address racism, but you're not sure where to start? Are you looking to get away from the church office and talk about hard things that matter to you? Are you looking to avoid blaming or shaming, but work with colleagues on finding ways to move forward in a positive direction? Well... then this training is for *you*.

You are invited and encouraged to attend the very first SWMN Synod Anti-racism training. Lunch and refreshments will be provided as part of registration. The fee is \$20, which covers expenses for the day. Register online at [www.swmnelca.org/events/rjn\\_training](http://www.swmnelca.org/events/rjn_training).

Your synod anti-racism team will lead you in a day of interactive learning, small group conversation, and personal work so we can all be better equipped to address racism in our own communities. Wherever you are in your own journey, **take your own next step** and join us in a day where we work together to talk about real stuff, to care for each other and our neighbors, and to commit to this work together.

### **This day *is not* about**

Shame or blame.

You fixing your congregation or community or saving the world all by yourself.

Putting one more "should" on your plate.

### **This *is* a day about:**

Providing a space to talk about real things that matter together.

Providing some context of how we got here, and what we can do to move forward.

Reminding you of who you are as a person and leader.

A chance to think through and confront complex issues with others.

Taking one small step toward addressing racism in your own personal life and calling.

This workshop is intended as one opportunity to fulfill the SWMN Synod Council's resolution that "*strongly recommends all rostered leaders, authorized ministers, and program staff (faith formation leaders, youth directors, etc.) to participate in annually offered workshops and trainings to develop greater appreciation for God's gifts of diversity in all people, deepen cultural competency, increase inclusion of our neighbors, practice equity, and better work toward for racial justice;*" and that "*Rostered Ministers report on the Rostered Ministers' annual report how this training involves at least 4 hours every two years.*" If you are unable to attend this particular training, note that we hope to offer other trainings in the future.