

# Adult Education

## February 10 and 17, 2025

THEOLOGY OF HOPE  
With Pastor Shannyn

Using the lens of Jürgen Moltmann's Theology of Hope where we are actively engaged in the transformation of the world, we will be exploring some of the Social Statements of the ELCA. In February we will read and discuss [Caring For Creation \(click to download\)](#) (1993) and [Race, Ethnicity, and Culture \(click to download\)](#) (1993). In March we will explore the statement on Human Sexuality (2009) and the proposed changes for 2025 and Sexism (2019).

### **February 10, 7:00p via Zoom**

The statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* establishes the ELCA's teachings on ecology and the environment, grounded in a biblical vision of God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation. It speaks of human beings as part of God's creation and of the human responsibility as servants of all God has made. It provides a framework of hope rooted in God's faithfulness for understanding this human role in creation, the problem of sin, and the current environmental crisis.

Caring for Creation expresses a call to pursue justice for creation through active participation, solidarity, sufficiency and sustainability, and states the commitments of the ELCA for pursuing wholeness for creation — commitments expressed through individual and community action, worship, learning, moral deliberation and advocacy.

### **February 17, 7:00p via Zoom**

*Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture* expresses the ELCA's calling to celebrate culture and ethnicity. This statement commits the ELCA to confront racism; to engage in public leadership, witness, and deliberation on these matters; and to advocate for justice and fairness for all people. The statement is grounded in the conviction that the church has been gathered together in the joyful freedom of the reign of God as announced by and embodied in Jesus. That reign has not come in its fullness, but the message of God's yes to the world breaks down all dividing walls as we live into that promise.

In daily life, cultural, ethnic and racial differences matter, but they can be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be – blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination. We are a church that belongs to Christ, which means we are to be a place for everyone as Christ is for everyone. Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. This statement was adopted by the 1993 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.