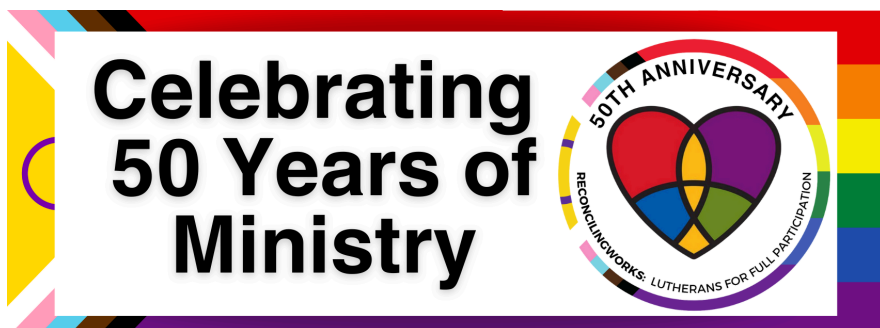


ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Beloveds, it is a joy and delight to be able to celebrate 50 years of holy ministry with you! As I reflect on all the volume of love, support, time, and energy that have made this incredible milestone possible, my heart bursts with gratitude and joy for you. ReconcilingWorks is, because you have made it possible.

The ministry and mission of ReconcilingWorks to advocate for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church continues to have a profound impact in life of the church. ReconcilingWorks staff, board, and volunteers, have the privilege to accompany all three expressions of the ELCA (congregations, synods, and churchwide) as it strives to build capacity and muscle memory of what a Christ-like welcome is.

The last 12 months brought unexpected life events for me as I was diagnosed with breast cancer. The journey of treatment and healing gave me an opportunity to reflect on the people and things that bring delight and joy to my life. The work I have been blessed to do at ReconcilingWorks is something I cherish. I hold this ministry close to my heart because it gave our paths a chance to cross, for the collective ministry we share, and deep love the Divine has for our large and expanding LGBTQIA+ family.

For the ministry still to come (and there is plenty for each of us) I could not think of a better community to be a part of than the one with each of you. Thank you for all the ways you share your gifts and skills with ReconcilingWorks!

Cheers to more years of ministry together,

-Aubrey Thonvold (she/they), Executive Director

Today is a great day to ensure ReconcilingWorks is able to continue the holy ministry of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of LGBTQIA+ people in the Lutheran church.



How to Give

Make a gift online:

www.reconcilingworks.org/donate/

Mail in your gift:

ReconcilingWorks
P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108

Donor Advised Fund:

If you have a ADF you can request distributions be made to ReconcilingWorks.

Employer Match:

If your employer offers an employee match this is a great way to give.

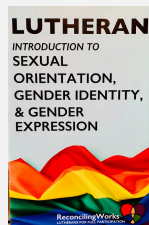
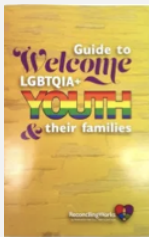
Helpful Information:

ReconcilingWorks IRS Tax designation: Tax exempt under IRS tax code 501 (c)(3)
IRS Tax ID: 84-3273216
Address: P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108
Organization type: Human Rights, Social Justice, Advocacy, Educational, Religious

RESOURCES FOR YOU & YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

ReconcilingWorks has a multitude of resources to help support you and your faith community available in English and Spanish. Check out each store below.

Orders are shipped out weekly, so order soon to ensure you receive your package in time!



www.reconcilingworks.org/purchase/

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

ReconcilingWorks is excited to be expanding our team. We accompany 1,130 Reconciling in Christ partners and over 350 communities on their journey of discernment to become RIC. We aim to provide additional support for the RIC program by adding two full time staff.



DEACON DAVID RASK BEHLING
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

David Rask Behling (he/they) is a Deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He grew up mostly in Tucson, Arizona, but moved around a lot as a kid, including time living in Japan and Germany. David's professional background is eclectic; working at different times as a homemaker, a writer, a college professor, an academic administrator, and more recently as a synod staff member and a campus minister. David was an English major as an undergraduate, is fluent in German, and has graduate degrees in Biblical Studies, Technical Communication, and Creative Writing [MFA]. He currently lives in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin with his partner, Karen, where they spend their free time reading, baking/cooking, and streaming movies and shows.

JENNIFER TROM
OPERATIONS MANAGER



Jennifer Trom (she/her) is a life-long Lutheran whose commitment to social justice was formed early on growing up in rural Minnesota as a child of a pastor and an educator. With this foundation she studied liberation theology in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) with an administrative emphasis at the University of Utah. Most recently she has worked for two ELCA churches, the Oregon Synod, and a faith-based art retreat center. She is currently serving a 6-year term on the ELCA Church Council. Jennifer finds joy and peace working on jigsaw puzzles, spending time with animals, and creating with mixed-media. She lives in Portland with her partner Chris, where they raised two amazing children and care for three demanding cats, one smart dog, and a small flock of chickens.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2025

RESILIENT COMMUNITY

With election season quickly approaching, and a year full of possibilities ahead of us, ReconcilingWorks wants to provide all of our Reconciling in Christ partners this worship service in thanks and gratitude for their partnership in ministry.

It's time for RIC Sunday Worship!

The theme this year is Resilient Community. It allows all of us to celebrate how far we have come in difficult times while reminding us we need to keep moving toward the goal of true inclusion. It focuses our attention on how community bonds and relationships sustain the individual members of the community, building resilience in institutions and individuals.

When we work together for justice, communities are stronger; when we work together, people are stronger.

Many Reconciling in Christ communities celebrated RIC Sunday on the last Sunday in January. This year, 2025, is on January 26, and we have chosen to use the lectionary texts for that Sunday for our readings and theme. But ReconcilingWorks encourages folks to choose an alternate date that works in their congregation's calendar.

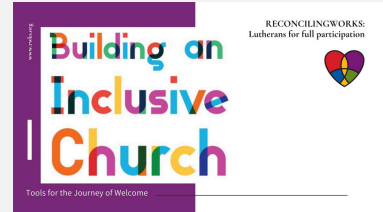
However you celebrate RIC Sunday in 2025, we hope it is a time to remember the journeys to where you are today, to recommit to your identity as a RIC partner ministry, and to discern ways to continue to live into your RIC partner commitments as a resilient community.

You and your faith community will be able to access the resource starting November 1, 2024.



UPCOMING TRAININGS

www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/



November 9th, 2024
January 11th, 2025
March 8th, 2025
May 10th, 2025



November 7, 2024
January 9, 2025
March 6, 2025
May 8, 2025



<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/consent/>



<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/bias/>

EXPANDED RIC PARTNER PUBLIC COMMITMENTS UPDATE

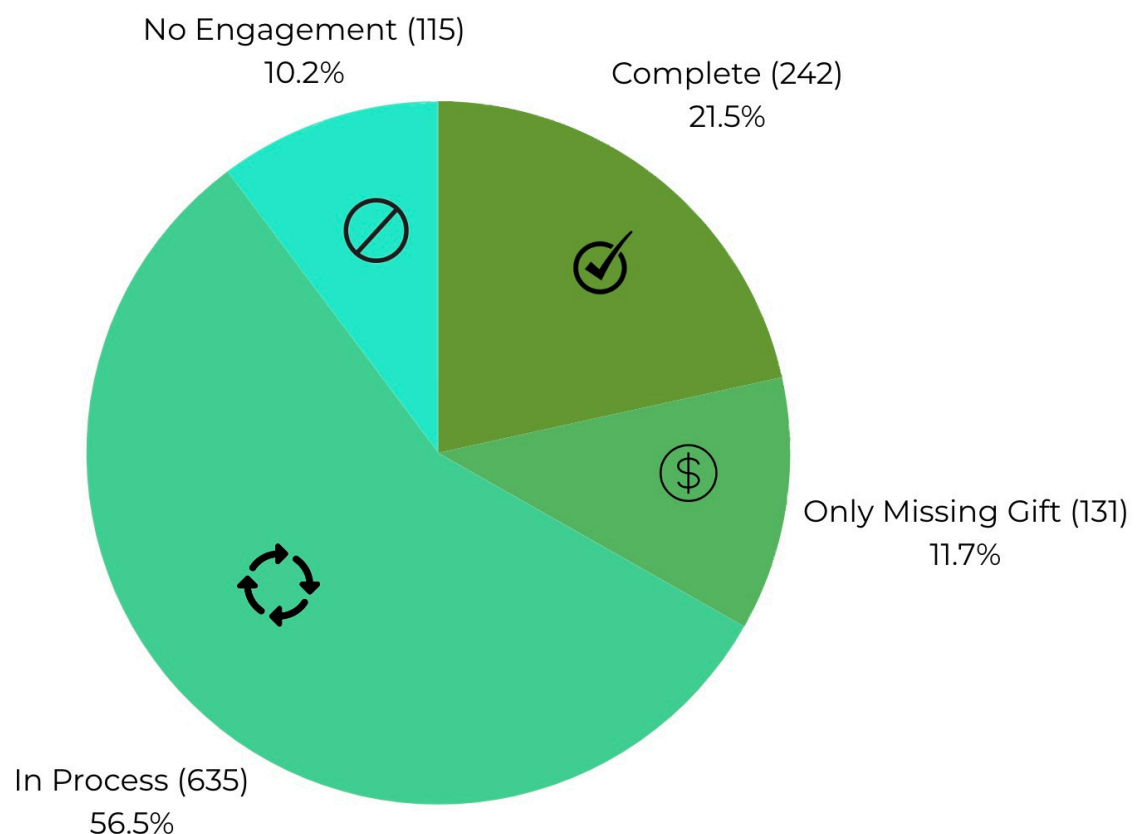


ReconcilingWorks currently has 1,140 Reconciling in Christ partners who are hard at work updating their partner commitments, learning ways to deepen and expand welcome in their faith communities, and setting new milestones to encourage ongoing education and growth. In addition, the 294 faith communities on a journey of discernment have been accompanying their community to learn what intentional and explicit welcome will look like in their unique and diverse contexts.

RIC Partner Public Commitment: To be recognized as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Partner, your faith community will:

1. Explicitly state a welcome to people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+” and name its commitment to "racial equity" or "anti-racism" in its welcome statement.
2. Be open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
3. Allow community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
4. Make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program.

The graph below shows where our RIC partners are in their journey of meeting the RIC Partner Public Commitments. If your faith community is in need of support to ensure it meets the partner commitments, email our Program Coordinator at davidb@reconcilingworks.org.





CELEBRATING NEW RIC PARTNERS

Salem Lutheran Church (Sycamore, IL)
Delamare-Maryland Synod, ELCA (Catonsville, MD)
Heidelberg Lutheran Church (Slatington, PA)
Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
(Carbondale, IL)
All-together Campus Ministry (Dearborn, MI)
Roseville Lutheran Church (Roseville, MN)
American Lutheran Church (Billings, MT)
Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church (Kendallville, IN)
Resurrection Lutheran Church (Chicago, IL)
Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church
(Minneapolis, MN)
Irving Park Lutheran Church (Chicago, IL)
Hope Lutheran Church (Enumclaw, WA)
The Collective (Decatur, GA)
Spirit of Grace Lutheran-Methodist Church
(Hood River, OR)
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (Excelsior, MN)
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Wheat Ridge, CO)
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Livermore, CA)
Maple Leaf Lutheran Church (Seattle, WA)
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (Lincoln, NE)
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
(Bel Air, MD)
Christ Lutheran Church (Valparaiso, IN)
St. Matthew's New Life Lutheran Church
(Madison, WI)
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church (Stillwater, OK)
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (Crystal Falls, MI)
Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
(Salem, OR)
Mount Cross Lutheran Church (Camarillo, CA)
All Saints Lutheran Church (Blue Springs, MO)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
(Princeton Junction, NJ)
Saint Luke Lutheran Church (Cordova, TN)
Edgebrook Lutheran Church (Chicago, IL)
Living Waters Lutheran Church (Crystal Lake, IL)
Christ the King Lutheran Church (Bloomington, MN)
Messiah Lutheran Church (Madison, WI)
Triumphant Love Lutheran Church (Austin, TX)
Emanuel Lutheran Church (Corning, NY)
St. Paul Lutheran Church (Peoria, IL)
Grace Lutheran Church (Mankato, MN)
San Pablo – Saint Paul Lutheran Church
(Minneapolis, MN)
English Lutheran Church (La Crosse, WI)
Covenant Lutheran Church (Temple, TX)
Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Menomonie, WI)
Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church (Racine, WI)
Atonement Lutheran Church (Wesley Chapel, FL)
Covenant Lutheran Church (Stoughton, WI)
St. John's Lutheran Church (Wilmette, IL)
Living Waters Ministries (New Era, MI)
American Lutheran Church (Grand Junction, CO)
Fellowship Lutheran Church (Tulsa, OK)
Christ Memorial Lutheran Church (Plymouth, MN)
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
(Lancaster, PA)
St. James Lutheran Church (Crystal, MN)
Peace First Lutheran Church (Astoria, OR)
Floyd-Willis Lutheran Parish (Floyd, VA)
First Evangelical Lutheran Church (Toronto, ON)
Atonement Lutheran Church (New Brighton, MN)
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (Mounds View, MN)
Ten Foot Pole Podcast (Baltimore, MD)
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Appleton, WI)
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Livonia, MI)
Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Livonia, MI)
St. John American Lutheran Church (Cedar Falls, IA)
St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church
(Conestogo, Ontario)
First Lutheran Church (DeKalb, IL)
Story Dwelling (Bend, OR)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Palmer, AK)
Peace Lutheran Church (Joplin, MO)
First Lutheran Church (Norfolk, VA)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Brunswick, ME)
Faith Lutheran Church (Hillsborough, NJ)

CELEBRATING NEW RIC PARTNERS CONTINUED . . .

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Derwood, MD)
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Appleton, WI)
Incarnation Lutheran Church (Poway, CA)
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (Naperville, IL)
King of Kings Lutheran Church (Liverpool, NY)
Faith Lutheran Church (Andover, MA)
Grace Lutheran Church (Scarsdale, NY)
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Port Jefferson Station, NY)
Central States Synod, ELCA (Kansas City, MO)
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Chatham, NJ)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Oxford, CT)
Grace Lutheran Church (Kenosha, WI)
Nineveh: Lutheran Justice Ministry (Radford, VA)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Plover, WI)
Hope Lutheran Church (Columbus, OH)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Cornucopia, WI)
Community of Spiritual Practice (Asheville, NC)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Centralia, WA)
Christ Lutheran Church (Aptos, CA)
Christ the King Lutheran Church (Combined Locks, WI)
Christ Lutheran Church (LaVale, MD)
LuMin St. Cloud – Campus & Young Adult Ministry (St. Cloud, MN)
Shepherd of the Valley (Ayer, MA)
St. John's Lutheran Church (Des Moines, IA)
Bethel Lutheran Church (Winchester, VA)
St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Sioux Falls, SD)
Trinity Lutheran Church (Kent, OH)

FALL CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

ReconcilingWorks has been attending the ELCA Conference of Bishop meetings for decades. It is a great opportunity to build relationships and networks with Bishops. Through these relationships ReconcilingWorks is able to be a trusted resource and partner as Synods work to support and care for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.



Bishop Kevin Strickland, (Southeastern), Bishop Jen Nagel, (Minneapolis Area), Bishop Bryan Penman, (SE Pennsylvania), Bishop Nathan Piphon, (New England), Bishop Jeff R Johnson, (Sierra Pacific), and Bishop Brenda Bos, (SW California)
Photo from Bishop Strickland's Facebook

This Conference of Bishops gave the LGBTQIA+ community a chance to celebrate the six LGBTQIA+ Bishops pictured above. ReconcilingWorks invites each of you to add these leaders to your prayers.

*Thank you for being a part of this holy ministry!
 @Aubrey*



Photo: Aubrey Thonvold at the Lutheran Center for COB