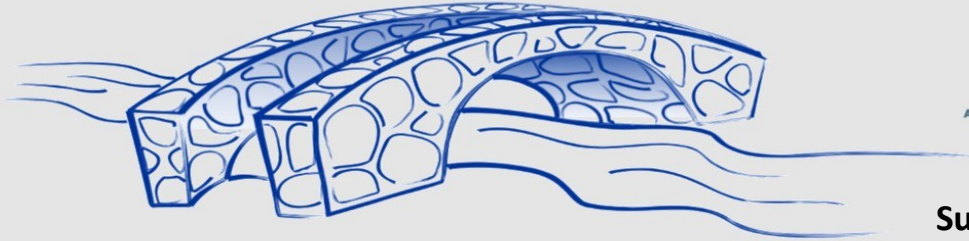


Building Bridges Racism, Diversity, and Justice

Arkansas-Oklahoma Building Bridges Team



ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA SYNOD
Boldly Sharing God's Grace with Everyone!

Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2018

"If we, the Church, who understand God's purpose in Christ is to reconcile people to God can't be the catalyst for bringing people together in love—then who can?"

- Bishop Mike Girlinghouse

TRY
THIS!

**Invite a
Conversation
Host a Screening!**

Now more than ever, we need to make room for honest, respectful and informed conversation.

Consider hosting a screening and discussion of the powerful film, *I Am Not Your Negro*, in your community.

To get started:

1. Talk to your leadership & put together a team.
2. Pick a Date
3. Reserve a copyrighted version of the film. Call the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Office (918) 492-4288.
4. Identify your discussion facilitator(s).
5. Promote your event!!!

Pro Tip—*food is a great way to bring people together!*

For help with your event, contact Pastor Liz **(608) 498-5515** or liz.albertson@elca.org

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO



Based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, "Remember This House," and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, "I Am Not Your Negro" explores the history of race relations in the United States through Baldwin's reminiscences of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Screening & Discussion

Sunday, August 19, 2018

4 - 8 pm

Lutheran Ministry Center - 4803 S Lewis Ave – Tulsa, OK

A light meal and refreshment provided.

Everyone welcome!

RSVP (918) 492-4288 or liz.albertson@elca.org by Thursday, August 9, 2018

Seven Ways to Build Bridges

1. **Video & Discussion.** Host a viewing & discussion of a video dealing with racism.
2. **Perspectives Potluck.** Organize a potluck that features a diverse group of speakers who are each invited to share a 3-5 minute story about themselves.
3. **Prayers of Intercession.** Pray at least weekly and work with worship leaders to include a prayer for justice and bridge building work as a regular prayer petition in worship.
4. **Show Up.** Show up to events where most of the people have a significant difference with you.
5. **Read.** Read a memoir written by someone with a different perspective or background from your own.
6. **Offer to lead the "Unpacking the Invisible Napsack" workshop.**
7. **Join the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Building Bridges Team.**

For great tips and links to resources - check out the AR-OK website under "Building Bridges"

aokelca.org



Recommended Reading

Love Imagined: A Mixed Race Memoir
By Quan Lee, Sherry. (2014)

"Joining the long history of women of color fighting to claim literary space to tell our stories, Sherry Quan Lee shares her truth with fierce courage and strength in *Love Imagined*. ... Quan Lee crafts a riveting tale of Minnesota life set within the backdrop of racial segregation, the Cold War, the sexual revolution while navigating it all through the lens of her multi-layered identities. A true demonstration of the power of an intersectional perspective."

--Kandace Creel Falcón, Ph.D., Director of Women's and Gender Studies, Minnesota State University, Moorhead

AR-OK Building Bridges Film Library

1. *I Am Not Your Negro**
2. *Traces of the Trade**
3. *Race: the Power of an Illusion*



Building Bridges with Perspectives Potlucks



Local people are invited to speak to their experiences today as people who are women, men, LGBTQ+, straight, white, black, brown, disabled, aging, Jewish, Muslim, homeless, farmers, and/or working poor, and so on.

The congregation and community are invited to bring an open mind & some food to share while getting to know their neighbors better.



Beforehand: Invite 5 people representing a variety of perspectives to present for 10 minutes or less. Ask them to share what they wish people understood better about what life is like for them, which could include life experiences, statistics, & anything that might challenge stereotypes and preconceived notions.

The day of the event: State that each person is brave for sharing their perspective and it's OK if we see the world differently. Encourage people to have an open mind and set a clear expectation of respect for all speakers. Allow a few minutes for small group discussion between speakers.

