

# Books Featured on the National Day of Racial Healing Event

by Lisa Nelson, Racial Justice Advocacy Network

On Jan. 21, the ELCA partnered with Augsburg Fortress to present an online educational observance of the National Day of Racial Healing. Members of the Northeastern Iowa Synod were among the 2,000 people who participated. Presenters included authors, editors and illustrators who are ELCA leaders of color. Some of the books that were discussed include:

**God’s Holy Darkness**

by Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick

This children’s book lifts up all of the ways darkness is important in the story of God’s people and helps children see how blackness is a celebrated element in the life of faith.

**You Are So Wonderful**

by Jacqui Lewis

This children’s book beautifully con-

veys the message of the wonderfulness in every person. It features a diverse cast of children and adults and includes a reading guide.

**Call to Allyship: Preparing Your Congregation for Leaders of Color**  
edited by Angela T. !Khabeb

Through this collection of stories and essays, the reader can learn from church leaders of color to identify biases and hurtful patterns of behavior that impede the church in honoring and growing through the gifts these leaders bring.

**Remind Me Again: Poems and Practices for Remembering Who We Are**  
by Joe Davis

This collection of 41 poems “will inspire, challenge and affirm readers from all stages of life,” to explore their

spirit, their community and their purpose. Each poem includes a practice to connect the verse to the reader’s everyday life. A facilitator guide is also available.

Augsburg is offering 20 percent off and free shipping on the books featured at the event through February 28. For more information and the savings code, visit [elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/racial-justice-ministries/national-day-of-racial-healing](http://elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/racial-justice-ministries/national-day-of-racial-healing)

The Racial Justice Network of the Northeastern Iowa Synod is creating an email list to facilitate communication about upcoming events related to racial justice. If you would like to be added to the list, please email us at [neiasynodrjan@gmail.com](mailto:neiasynodrjan@gmail.com).

## Join an ELCA Fireside Chat

Feb. 13, 2025

The ELCA seminaries will host a new Fireside Chat series in February, with the first session focusing on the ins and outs of serving as a chaplain in the ELCA.

Join the ELCA seminaries and Chaplain Corps Thursday, Feb. 13, for the virtual “Fireside Chat: Exploring Pathways for Chaplaincy in the ELCA” at 7-8:15 p.m. CST. There is no cost to attend.

To register, visit [admissions.callutheran.edu/register/ELCAChaplaincy](http://admissions.callutheran.edu/register/ELCAChaplaincy).

## DAY OF RENEWAL IS SET FOR APRIL 24

April 24, 2025  
Ewalu, Strawberry Point

Ministers actively serving in the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to gather Thursday, April 24, for the Day of Renewal event at EWALU Bible Camp, Strawberry Point.

This will be a day to renew connections with one another as colleagues and as the synod. Ministers include pastors, deacons, seminary interns, collaborative learning leaders, TEEM leaders and synodically authorized ministers who regularly

serve as ministers in congregations and ministries of this synod.

The theme of the day will echo the 2025 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly theme, *Created to Be Connected*. The Day of Renewal schedule will be spacious, with plenty of time to connect with each other, spend time in nature, worship together, and engage in deep conversations and learning.

The cost to attend is \$20. Online registration will begin in March.