

Two Learning Events Brought to You By Your Synod's Racial Equity Ministry Team

These events are brought to you by the synod's Racial Equity Ministry Team. This team's programming has been received with enthusiasm. Please join us for this high quality programming that will leave you more informed and aware of how you are living out your faith.

"Heritage: What to Keep, What to Leave Behind."

One of the hardest things to do in life is to learn what to do with our upbringing - the ways we are connected to and learn from our life and development. Using music and prayer, Francisco Herrera will be walking with us through how he has answered this question in his own life, and how his undertaking has transformed him as an human being and as a follower and preacher of the Gospel.

Date: Sunday, September 16 / 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Place: New Life Church - 7564 Cottage Grove Road - Madison

About Our Speaker, Francisco Herrera

Before coming to Chicago [Francisco Herrera](#) studied classical music (viola and orchestra conducting) in his hometown of [Kansas City, Missouri](#) and then [Geneva, Switzerland](#). After feeling the call to ministry at his home church in Geneva, [The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva](#), he returned to the US to enter seminary in 2005, completing his M.Div. from [Chicago Theological Seminary](#) in 2012. Since beginning his Ph.D studies at [the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago \(LSTC\)](#) in Fall of 2013, he has also been developing his skills as a seminary instructor, both at [LSTC](#) and [the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest](#). And when he isn't doing any of those things, polymath and scatterbrain that he is, Francisco likes to write worship and devotional music, blogs at www.loveasrevolution.blogspot.com, tweets at [@PolyglotEvangel](https://twitter.com/PolyglotEvangel), and travels the country as one of the central leaders of [#decolonizeLutheranism](#).



**“American Genocides Project”
Led By Theologian and Author, Dr. Craig Nesson!**

Date: Sunday, October 14 Event / 4:00- 6:00 pm

Place: New Life - 7564 Cottage Grove Road - Madison

**Free will offering*

One of the central factors for addressing systemic racism in this country involves dismantling the fundamentally flawed, conventional narrative used to interpret U.S. history. According to genocide theory, American history has been decisively marked by two genocides: 1) against the indigenous people of this continent and 2) against enslaved African people. The ELCA in assembly has adopted a resolution to repudiate the doctrine of discovery <

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Repudiation_Doctrine_of_Discovery_SPR16.pdf> as one step for addressing this history. The historian Edward E. Baptist in his book, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (2014) has documented how the “whipping machine” of slavery and its expansion was a decisive force driving the economic development of this country. Only right remembering can lead to repentance. What would be the meaning of reparations as a sign of true repentance?

*Dr. Craig L. Nesson is William D. Steng Professor for the Education and Renewal of the Church, Academic Dean, and Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He teaches courses in the areas of contextual theology, pastoral theology, and theological ethics. He has oversight of the seminary’s internship program. Dr. Nesson has served eleven years as a parish pastor in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He holds degrees from Michigan State University, Wartburg Theological Seminary, and the University of Munich. His theological interests include ecclesiology, theological ethics, liberation theology, and family systems theory. In addition to other articles, reviews, and books, Dr. Nesson is the author of *The Integrity of the Body of Christ: Boundary Keeping as Shared Responsibility* (2016—with Arden Mahlberg), *Radicalizing Reformation: North American Perspectives* (2016—with Karen L. Bloomquist and Hans Ulrich), *Liberation from Violence for Life in Peace* (2015—with Ulrich Duchrow), *The Vitality of Liberation Theology* (2012), *Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community* (2010), *Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation* (2010, Revised Edition), *Liberating Lutheran Theology: Freedom for Justice and Solidarity in a Global Context* (2011—with Paul Chung and Ulrich Duchrow) to name just a few!*

