



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

August 24, 2021

“Scripture speaks of one humanity, created by God. It recounts our rebellion and enslavement to sin. Scripture tells of a diverse people reconciled to God through the blood of the cross, a people set free for the work of reconciliation. It heralds a new freedom and future in one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity and culture.

If Senate Bill 411 is passed into law, we are concerned that educators will be discouraged from teaching about history comprehensively and holding needed discussions about race. At this time when our state and country need healing, SB 411 would create another barrier to addressing our divisions and moving forward as one people.

As a church body, we believe in promoting equity and respect for all of God’s creatures. Understanding who we are as a state and country, with all of our virtues and blemishes, is essential to healing racial divisions. Accepting a sanitized version of the past would create another barrier to uncovering obvious and subtle lines drawn to limit where people belong.

We wish the truth about God’s love revealed in our concrete relationships would have been less offensive to more people in past generations, and that historically accepted abuses didn’t influence our present. But this is our broken world. Jesus didn’t ignore brokenness in relationships. We ask that the State Legislature not either.

Please vote against SB 411 and instead support AB 273.

Sincerely,

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