



LATVIEŠU EVANĢELISKI LUTERISKĀ BAZNĪCA AMERIKĀ

LATVIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Response to Racist Violence

How long, O Lord?

Psalm 13:1a

The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is horrified and heartbroken by the recent deaths of Black Americans. We acknowledge and regret the existence of racist violence, individual and systemic racism and racial injustice present in our world. As Christians, we must not be silent and we will call out and combat these evils and fight for justice and peace!

The Latvian people have experienced many more years of oppression than freedom. Though our histories are different, we will work together to achieve the same unalienable and equal rights for all. We acknowledge that with the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment slavery was abolished, but sadly Black people were only beginning their journey to freedom.

After the recent horrific acts, we cry out together with our Black brothers and sisters "How long, O Lord?". As we pray for God's help and guidance, we are committed to the following Action points:

- Develop deeper relations with diverse communities of faith.
- Partner and support the work of organizations that combat racial injustice.
- Support elected officials working towards social and racial justice.
- Develop and implement a Bible Study focusing on anti-racism and loving our neighbors unconditionally.
- Learn and engage beyond our comfort zone, understand our privilege on the road to reconciliation.

We believe that all humans are created in the image of God . Therefore, we pray we are granted the understanding and strength to actively fight racism, to help our neighbors to transform our communities from those devastated by fear, misunderstanding, and violence into peaceful and vibrant communities. We as a church recognize that this work will be ongoing and are committed to this journey until justice prevails.

Endorsed by:

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