

BRRICK Annual Report to the 2023 Synod Assemble of the Southeast Michigan Synod E.L.C.A.

BRRICK, Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ Kingdom, is celebrating 31 years of fighting the sin of systemic racism in the SE Mich. Synod.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> of 2023, working in cooperation with the other justice ministries of the synod, we witnessed the birth of our first annual Justice Summit of the SE Mich. Synod at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills. The all-day event consisted of eight mini-workshops on a range of justice topics including: What is food justice, in Christ (RIC), Ableism in the Church and Defining Institutional Racism. There were over 100 in attendance who were fed by Spirit filled worship and free lunch provided by FedUp Ministries. Reconciling After the morning of workshops, there was a powerful panel discussion with a diverse group of community leaders who challenged the white church to become accomplices for justice!

After missing two summers due to the covid-19 pandemic, Bridge Builders summer camp has returned! In the summer of 2022, the BRRICK team in accordance with Living Water Ministries resumed the Bridge Builders week-long Anti-racism leadership training camp for Highschool aged youth. Through our partnership with Living Water Ministries the Bridge Builder program is now an award-winning national program that has provided Jesus centered anti-racism leadership training in our synod for over 16 years. Bridge Builders is the winner of the 2016 Innovative Program Award given by the Lutheran Outdoor Network and has touched the lives of young church leaders who come from synods all over the ELCA including: Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Illinois and Pennsylvania to name a few.

Participants who have completed grades 9-12 are invited to join us July 23-28, 2023 for this unique camping experience. For more information, please visit Living Water Ministries online [elcalivingwater.com](http://elcalivingwater.com), and BRRICK on the SE Mich. Synod justice website, [semisynodjustice.com](http://semisynodjustice.com).

Second Sunday Cinema Club (SSCC) is another core ministry of the BRRICK team that promotes relationship building and intersectional education through the medium of watching, learning and discussing popular movies and documentaries. Please join us Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM to 5 PM at King of Kings Lutheran church in Shelby Township as we gather to watch the poignant drama "Moonlight" the 2016 Academy award winner for Best Picture.

For more information and discussion guides for previous SSCC movies, and to register for the upcoming June 4<sup>th</sup> event please visit BRRICK on the SE Mich. Synod justice website (above).

Ant-racism workshops are available through our education ministry. We need your voice! If you think God is calling you to join the prophetic battle against the systemic evil of racism, please visit the justice website for information about joining the BRRICK team or scheduling an anti-racism workshop in your congregation.

"You shall be called the repairer of the breach, (Isaiah 58:12)"

Respectfully Submitted by

Rev. Michael Johnson (he, him, his)  
BRRICK Chairperson

