

AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION (ADLA)

Los Angeles Chapter News

Black History is American History!

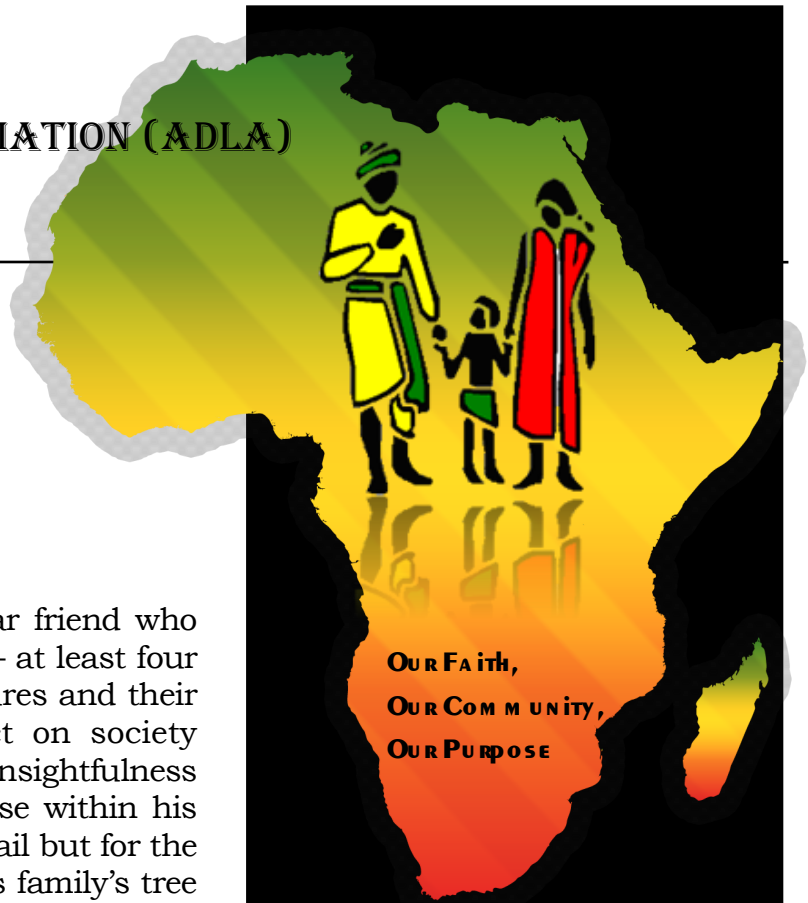


A while back, I was in conversation with a dear friend who had taken the time to align his family's history – at least four generations by name – with notable historic figures and their respective fluences and corresponding impact on society going back to the early 1800's. I thought that insightfulness to have been a true blessing. Not only for those within his family who may not have known that level of detail but for the many who would come to know the legacy of his family's tree and frankly, how he came to be! The Book of Matthew reveals a similar genealogy, tracking the family tree of Jesus from and through the Jewish line of royalty.

Royalty! If we think about it, we are all descendants of royalty; people whose culture and customs have been shared globally for centuries, whose lives and life blood have found refuge in foreign lands making them their own despite unspeakable trials and tribulations. We are the descendants of royalty, blessed by Almighty God with inestimable and inalienable gifts of compassion, endurance, perseverance, resilience and self-control.

Think about your lineage. Who comes to mind when you consider the genetic source of your innate qualities, your God-given gifts? I'm reminded of both my grandmothers who were domestic workers in the 1950s and early 60s, serving families in up State New York. Ladies who wore 'uniforms' during the week but dawned their very best on Sundays: hats with veils, gloves and heels. They were pillars in Church and they made their presence known by their faith, dignity and character. Royalty!

Are we living up to the royal stature that we've inherited? Will this Black History month and the months that follow be defined by actions and activities that define our royal statehood? Shall we tailor our lives based on the bible study, making such study a pivotal part of our weekly existence? Will we seek to imbue, to permeate the qualities of past generations within? Will we leave an indelible mark for others to follow; an example for others wishing to replicate?



Trinity Lutheran, Hawthorne

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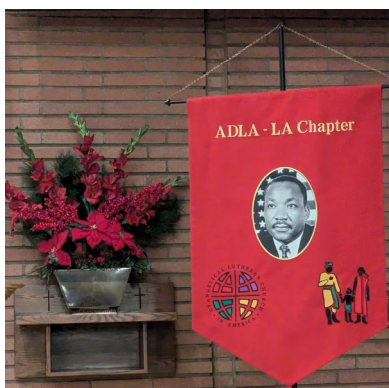
www.adla-la.com

Who comes to mind when you think of ROYALTY? Honor your royalty... and have a Blessed Black History Month! Join us at California Lutheran University for this year's Black History Month celebrations. Guest speakers for the coming Thursdays at 11:30A are The Rev. Scott Hamilton Adams on the 20th and The Rev. Dr. Albert Starr, Jr. on the 27th .



45th Annual tribute to The Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. – Were you there?

Were you there at this year's tribute to The Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr., held on the ministry campus of Trinity Lutheran, Hawthorne? This year's worship service brought with it a uniquely endearing quality, a pronounced perspective about God's grace in all things as it took place just days following the horrific losses incurred by the ravaging fires engulfing much of the communities bordering Los Angeles. This year's theme: "Now then... what's next?" was forged following the November elections and the expressed concerns that many shared about the impending governmental transition and its perceived impact on so many. Who



knew or could have conceived the magnitude of executive orders that have surfaced and altered democracy as we know it in the last 4-5 weeks? Who could have fathomed the trade war implications headlining our southern and northern borders? And, what about the proliferation of deportations across the country? The ceasing of funds to church bodies like Lutheran Social Services, or the questioning of those resources by ELCA – AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). "Now then... what's next?" For those who have lost it all in the fires, what's next for them is determined day-by-day, minute-by-minute. ADLA members are among those who have lost it all. Recognizing the enormity of this loss and the gravity of the required recovery, our MLK offerings have been dedicated to help. A check in the amount of \$2,812 was sent to the ELCA – Lutheran Disaster Response in care of The Los Angeles Fire victims. ADLA has placed these financial gifts in the 'master's hands' to be multiplied and effectively managed. Our prayers continue for our ADLA members from **Christ The Shepherd, Altadena, Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles** and the thousands of families seeking God's unending mercy in the midst of all of this!





ADLA congregations have enjoyed coming together for collaborative worship in past Lenten seasons. Being together as One People of God for any of the Wednesday worship opportunities, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday has been an intentional outreach and relation-building experience for many of ADLA's congregations. We are better together in all things! What about this year? If there are plans for collaborative worship, please share them with ADLA communications' team so that our membership may be apprised. A master calendar of such worship events will be aggregated and distributed. Let's share our plans!

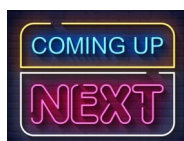
Bishop Brenda Bos

Bishop Brenda will be on sabbatical, offering her much needed self-care as she and Janis work through their personal losses due to the LA Fires. We hold the two of them in prayer as they navigate these 'troubling waters'.



ADLA 2025-26 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Friday, February 28th marks the closing of the 2025-26 membership campaign. Two campaign celebrations are in the works: 1) celebrating the congregation with the most members, and 2) the congregation with the highest number of new members. The ADLA Executive Team will host these celebrations during the Sunday fellowship hours. Campaign results will be published by March 10th. Looking forward to the results this year!



Upcoming ADLA General Session Meeting – Saturday, February 22nd 9A, at First, Lutheran Church, Carson. Please bring your membership dues if you have not yet secured your 'seat at the table' for 2025-26.