

(CONTINUED)

MORE INFO

The Institute uses a two-pronged approach, employing both academia and action:

1) THE INSTITUTE OF BLACK LUTHERAN STUDIES

Faithfully Lutheran, we will be grounded in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

Authentically Black, we will reflect upon the history, thought, and praxis of Black communities and thought leaders over the centuries. Together, the goal is to advance research in Black Lutheran history, thought, and identity to prepare our students to equip, recruit, and disciple catechumens, laity, and church workers. The Institute will consist of two program divisions: Continuing Education Units (CEU) and Master of Theology (Th.M.).

2) THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Center for Social Justice supports research across the disciplines to understand injustice in all its forms and respond "with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18), from a Lutheran perspective. Being multidisciplinary, we will prepare faculty, clergy, entrepreneurs, teachers, community leaders, and church workers to respond creatively to our contemporary challenges while providing churches, schools, RSOs, and neighborhoods with the tools they need to be self-supporting, self-propagating, and self-governing. The Center advances the theory of The Institute with praxis.

DONATE NOW.

CHANGE TOMORROW.

Help jumpstart an institution rooted in our Christian identity that will pursue racial reconciliation and reform for generations to come.

Statement on George Floyd

Following the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, the BCC urged LCMS Lutherans to write to their District Presidents (DP) to insist that they develop a plan for black ministry in their area. They also requested that members ask their DPs to petition the Synod President to increase support for Black Ministry. (blackministryweek.com/district-presidents)

Rev. Malueg-Lattimore himself penned an open letter in the aftermath of Floyd's death. In this letter he urged Lutherans to take up the cause of Social Justice, and criticized Lutherans for their alleged shirking of black ministry:

As a Christian, if you do not help end a system of injustice that takes the lives of brothers and sisters in Christ like George Floyd but "use the excuse that you did not assist their deaths by word or deed," then "you have killed him."...

When we do not seek to end the institution of racism, this nation's original sin, or worse deny it, we not only fail to recognize the humanity of our black and brown brothers and sisters in Christ, we also fail to recognize the God in them, the Spirit of God Who has given them life and breath.

We have not been the most hospitable. Since closing Concordia Selma, the last Lutheran HBCU, Synod reduced Black Ministry's budget and divested from the Black Ministry Family Convocation – a triennial gathering to study God's Word and celebrate the perseverance of Black Lutherans. With no HBCU to support Black Lutherans, no Black Lutherans are entering seminary this year.

theunbrokencord.com/writings/black-clergy-caucus-statement-on-george-floyd

What is the: Black Clergy Caucus?



The Black Clergy Caucus (BCC) is an organization of black clergy in the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS), presided over by Rev. Warren Malueg-Lattimore.



The BCC promotes itself as an “autonomous organization” striving “to empower the Black Lutheran Church to minister (w)holistically in the areas of: evangelism, ministerial support, education, economic development, political involvement & awareness, youth develop, fellowship, and recruitment.” (blackministryweek.com)

Status and Partnerships

The BCC is not a Registered Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. However, it does appear on the official LCMS web page for “Black Ministry” (lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/black-ministry).

The BCC is closely partnered with the Social Justice promoting organization, Lutherans for Racial Justice (L4RJ). According to Guidestar Candid, the search hub for non-profit organizations, the BCC shares a web address with L4RJ (see fig. 1).

L4RJ has since June 19, 2020 carried out fundraising for the BCC and their Institute of Black Lutheran Studies and Center for Social Justice (IBLSCSJ) (see figs. 2 & 3).



Figure 1: guidestar.org/profile/47-5233614



Figure 2: gofundme.com/f/help-us-teach-cultural-competency-in-the-church

LUTHERANS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE is proud to spotlight this project. Every donation goes directly to the Black Clergy Caucus of the LCMS to be used as a seed money to jumpstart The Institute.

Figure 3: gofundme.com/f/help-us-teach-cultural-competency-in-the-church

Institute of Black Lutheran Studies and Center for Social Justice

Donations through LRJ to their partners, the BCC, will be used as follows, to quote from their statements:

You want to do your part to confront systemic racism

BUT HOW?

Start by helping us build a curriculum to raise up a new generation of racially inclusive and culturally sensitive clergy, church workers, and community leaders. The Institute of Black Lutheran Studies and Center for Social Justice offers the opportunity for people of all vocations to study Black-American history, thought, and identity, especially in the Lutheran tradition, and to put that study into action.

YOUR DONATION WILL HELP SUPPORT:

-- The employment of professors, researchers and theologians who will develop a research-based, culturally informed curriculum grounded in Scripture.

-- A scholarship program that will benefit leaders and congregations in underserved communities.

-- The development of educational resources for congregations, equipping them to respond creatively to the contemporary challenges in their own neighborhoods.

Every tax-deductable donation, whether it's \$1, \$10, or \$10,000, goes directly to the founders of The Institute, [The Black Clergy Caucus of the Lutheran Church](#), a federally recognized 501(c)(3).