

## Dear Church

Study questions for Wednesday, July 29, 2020

### Introduction

1. Pastor Duncan finds an honest and authentic welcome in his ELCA church? How has it felt for you when you have received the same? Can you tell a story about a time you felt welcome?
2. What “fundamental truths” are there worth fighting for in the church?
3. Do you believe the ministry of Jesus was also political? Why or Why not?

### Chapter One

1. How do you feel when you hear the ELCA is the whitest denomination in the country? Does that make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?
2. Was it surprising to hear that white supremacy is a system that doesn't need active racists to function? Could you benefit from a system that you didn't start or agree with?
3. How is dismantling white supremacy a Christian undertaking? How is the church of Christ called to do this?

### Chapter Two

1. Do you believe that grace can be a balm to the oppressed? If so, how do you live that out in your daily life and discipleship?
2. “Diversity is not assimilation in the same way that grace is not the law.” How have you seen assimilation play out when people of color come to a Lutheran church?

### Chapter Three

1. When you hear a black person talk about reparations, what are some of the things that come to mind?
2. What would reparations look like at Central?
3. In what ways have you worked through the cycle of repentance, reparations, and reconciliation? What happens if we don't do the first two well? What happens if we do the first two well?

### Chapter Four

1. What do you think Lenny is trying to convey by comparing his journey to Dylann's?
2. What are the times and places you didn't confront something clearly racist here at Central?
3. What does Lenny mean by “wage peace”?

### Chapter Five

1. What feelings come up in you when you hear about the idea of adjusting or changing our liturgy and symbols?
2. If we decided at Central to only depict Christ as a person of color (in artwork, in the bulletin, etc.) what would we risk?
3. In what ways might our hymnody need attention as we look to decenter whiteness in worship?