

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Anti-Racism Conversation  
January to February 2022  
**A Deeper Dive Into Critical Race Theory**

Read, read, read . . . anything and everything. Even when you are reading the Bible or a novel or a magazine, be aware. Watching TV, be aware of ethnicity, gender, age, style, words used. Not as a means to becoming suspicious, but a means to becoming aware. Some call it ‘woke’ in a pejorative tone. Let’s call it observant, critical, always analyzing. Yes, it can be exhausting and it can also be liberating.

**What is Critical Thinking?**

“the analysis of facts to form a judgment”

When you see, read, hear something that feels ‘odd’ ask yourself

1. How am I reacting/feeling about this?
2. What do I notice?
3. What do I wonder?
4. Why did I react/respond?
5. Is there something missing?
6. Is it a one-off or a pattern?

1974 Seminex walk out of the Concordia Lutheran Seminary was based on the rift caused by a new methodology of scriptural interpretation: Historical/Critical Method. The leadership of the seminary demanded the professors stop teaching this method and that the students stop attending those professors’ classes or be removed from the seminary. The students and a couple of the professors walked out, never to return to that seminary.

There is a similar response from folks to Critical Race Theory. Stop using it, or be gone! CRT is meant to be a tool for reviewing the written, verbal, experienced history of this country. And it is disturbing to some because it uncovers the biases that have formed the narrative of our history.

Read with a *critical* eye – not a *criticizing* eye, a *critical* eye. Critique what you are reading? Asks question of what you are reading? Look for the gaps in the information. Look for the adjectives and adverbs. How does that influence your understanding, your opinion, your bias?

Do I agree with the writer? About what? Why?

Do I disagree with the writer? About what? Why?

Am I unsure? Why? What’s missing? What’s contrary to my opinion?

Could I be wrong?

Are there studies/information/other sources that support my understanding?

Are there studies/information/other sources that refute my understanding?

How reliable is this source?

[Interactive Media Bias Chart Public - Ad Fontes Media](#)

Let's develop some understanding or agreement on terminology:

The word 'evangelical' has morphed over time to the point where there are some in the ELCA who are advocating that we remove that word from our name.

Would it make a difference? How?

What words or phrases in the Anti-racism conversation are often misunderstood, have squishy definitions or have shifted over time,

Defund the Police; All Lives Matter/Black Lives Matter; White Fragility; Racism/Racist; White Supremacy;

What does it mean to take a theoretical approach to an issue?

What does it mean to take an academic approach?

What is the difference between political, partisan, social, theological, personal, public...

How does word choice affect understanding?

How does lived experience affect understanding and reactions?

How can we find reliable, primary sources for information and definitions?

Are schools "teaching" Critical Race Theory?

What is the source of the curriculum?

Are schools employing Critical Race Theory in developing curricula?

What's the difference? Is there a difference?

**February 10, 2022, 7:45pm, guest speaker, Jennie Vano, Research Librarian**