



*Driven by faith to bring healing, housing, and hope  
to the Lehigh Valley's most vulnerable.*

## NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Rev. Larry Pickens, Ecumenical Director, The Lehigh Conference of Churches, 610-433-6421, [lpickens@lehighchurches.org](mailto:lpickens@lehighchurches.org)

### **Lehigh Valley Residents to Mark 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MLK Jr. Assassination at "ACT NOW: Unite to End Racism Rally" in Washington, DC**

**WHAT:** Participants will travel by bus from Emmaus to the National Mall for an interfaith service and a rally denouncing the entrenched racism that divides our country and our communities.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018

**WHERE:** Bus departs from/returns to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 3461 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Emmaus, PA 18049

**TIME:** 4 AM departure; bus will begin return trip to the Lehigh Valley at 5 PM

**\*\*\*OPPORTUNITIES FOR STORY/PHOTO/VIDEO CONTENT\*\*\***

The Lehigh Conference of Churches invites the public to memorialize the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while taking a stand against racism and encouraging unity. The Conference is sponsoring a bus departure from the Lehigh Valley to the ACT NOW: Unite to End Racism events taking place in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, April. 4, 2018. Register at [lehighchurches.org/unite-to-end-racism](http://lehighchurches.org/unite-to-end-racism).

ACT NOW: Unite to End Racism ([rally2endracism.org](http://rally2endracism.org)) is organized by the National Council of Churches, with partners including the National African American Clergy Network, Conference of National Black Churches, Sojourners, Franciscan Action Network, Churches Uniting in Christ, and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and its member communions.

The Lehigh Conference of Churches and its partners are tackling racism and bigotry as an area of focus. "The 50th anniversary of Dr. King's death is an opportunity for us to assess where our country is as we continue to work at becoming an inclusive and just nation," said Ecumenical Director Rev. Larry Pickens. "We invite people throughout the Lehigh Valley to join us for this important witness. As people of faith we join together in affirming that we are not going to let racism and injustice turn us around."

Buses will depart at 4 AM from Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit (3461 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Emmaus), for overnight travel to Washington, DC. The group will join people from around the nation for an Interfaith Service of Prayer and Preparation at the National Mall (8–9 AM) followed by the ACT to End Racism Rally (9 AM–4 PM). Buses will depart at 5 PM to return to the Lehigh Valley (same location). Register soon: The cost is \$60 per person. Space on the bus is limited, and reservations are first-come, first-served. At least 55 people must be registered by March 15 to make the trip possible.

*The Lehigh Conference of Churches seeks to unite Christians through community service, ecumenical ministry, and advocacy for social justice while administering housing and social service programs that meet basic human needs.*