

Expanding Our Welcome

April 2024 Edition

Consider This

April is sandwiched in between May, when we celebrate Mother's Day and March where we finished Women's History Month, or it would be more accurate to say 'her-story' month. We don't say herstory because it sounds clunky, and we all know history is a unisex term. Perhaps it is. However, there are ways to avoid excluding women and other genders, even if this was not the intent. Sadly, some language is used to separate by design and continues to build barriers in people's minds. If you are an ally of women and all genders, consider your word choices. Fireman is really firefighter. Mailman is a mail carrier or postal worker. Mankind is humanity.

The same happens in church. Some Biblical translations, originally made only by men, greatly exaggerate and overuse 'he, him, and king.' Even when the original language has no gender. God or Yahweh is one such word. God is too big for a single gender, yet it seems God was assigned as male in Biblical translations. Interestingly, the Holy Spirit has feminine articles, so one would expect to see she/her pronouns often in the book of Acts, but oddly enough, many translations merely state the Holy Spirit.

Consider when reading passages that God is God, not he/him/king. *The Inclusive Bible* remains faithful to the original texts while using language that loves all of humanity, no apologies. What words are printed in your bulletins or said from the pulpit or in your website? Inclusive choices say loudly; we see you, we love you, you matter. Now that sounds like God.

Want to see the Inclusive Bible for free (yes, some things really are): [The inclusive Bible : the first egalitarian translation : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

~Newsletter articles written by ELCA Lutherans in the SWWA Synod who support RIC

RIC Work Team

The RIC Work Team serves as a resource for congregations and ministries throughout the synod as we all seek to expand our welcome in creative and life-giving ways. In this new publication we hope to provide practical ideas for your congregation to consider. Each month will have a different focus and some resources you may find valuable.

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God's work. Our hands.