

# 2021

# CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

## *Bravely & Boldly Addressing Our American History of Racial Injustice*

The African Descent Lutheran Association and the Creating Writing Contest Partners believe that in these current times we must support and encourage truth, equity, and justice for all. We invite participants to submit a creative writing based on the following:

*“How does the history of injustice related to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre reflect and relate to modern day injustice in the United States of America? How can the Church recognize its historical complicity with racial injustice and be moved to respond and proclaim truth, equity, and justice for all in our nation today?”*

***Deadline for entries is Monday, May 10, 2021.***

*Entries of poetry, short story, essays, and narrative exposition from persons aged 14 and older accepted. Cash awards for top 3 entries in each division. See full submission requirements for details.*

### SPONSOR



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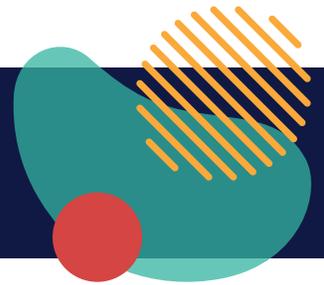


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**Grant Sponsor:** *St. Francis Lutheran Church Endowment  
San Francisco, CA*

# African Descent Lutheran Association

## 2021 Creative Writing Contest



The African Descent Lutheran Association and the Creating Writing Contest Partners believe that in these current times we really must support and encourage truth, equity and justice for all. It is our mission to bravely and boldly address and confront our American history of racial injustice. We invite participants to submit a creative writing based on the following topic(s) and questions :

***“How does the history of injustice related to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre reflect and relate to modern day injustice in the United States of America? How can the Church recognize its historical complicity with racial injustice and be moved to respond and proclaim truth, equity, and justice for all in our nation today?”***

### **Background**

The Tulsa Race Massacre (known alternatively as the Tulsa race riot, the Greenwood Massacre, the Black Wall Street Massacre, the Tulsa pogrom, or the Tulsa Massacre) took place on May 31 and June 1, 1921, when mobs of white residents, many of them deputized and given weapons by city officials, attacked black residents and businesses of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, OK. It has been called “the single worst incident of racial violence in American history.” The attack, carried out on the ground and from private aircraft, destroyed more than 35 square blocks of the district—at that time the wealthiest black community in the United States, known as “Black Wall Street.”

2021 marks the centennial year of the massacre. As a way to remember and commemorate the loss of this community in such a dark period of history, the ELCA’s African Descent Lutheran Association and partners have organized a writing contest to gather thoughts, tributes, and sociological/theological understandings of the detrimental impact of this community’s demise on Black American wealth and economic equality.

### **Sponsors**

This contest is sponsored by the African Descent Lutheran Association in partnership with Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (ELCA) and LuMin Network (ELCA Campus Ministry). Awards provided by a grant from St. Francis Lutheran Church Endowment, San Francisco.

### **Contact for More Information**

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President, African Descent Lutheran Association

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# 2021 ADLA Creative Writing Contest Rules

## Deadline for Submissions

Entries must be submitted via emailed by Monday, May 10, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

## Eligibility

The contest has three age divisions:

- High School (age 14-17)
- Young Adults (age 18-22)
- Adult (23+ older)

## Awards

Within each age division there will be three winners:

- 1st place- \$500
- 2nd place- \$300
- 3rd place- \$100

## Writing Specifications

**Poetry** – one poem, no more than 300-500 words

**Short Story / Narrative Exposition** – one entry, no more than 1,000 words

**Creative Writing Essay** – one short research composition on the topic or issue giving your opinion or recounting a personal experience, no more than 1,500 words

Submissions should have the following features:

- Compelling and creative content
- Supportive premise and clear examples
- Reflections (personal) that relate to the topics and promoting question(s) described
- Ability to show understanding of the topic and offer solutions, suggestions, and actionable responses related to racial injustice in America.
- A relevant conclusion that ties together the main ideas of the creative writing and brings the reader to a call to action
- Proper credit to source materials to avoid plagiarism
- Carefully edited for spelling and grammar

## Judging

- All entries are judged on the basis of content, originality and quality of expression. Judges' decisions are final. Judges do not critique entries. All entries are anonymous when given to the judges.
- Winners will be notified by email before the awards program.
- Winners will be notified on Monday, May 24th and may be invited to present their work at a Commemoration Program Forum in Tulsa, OK (live, virtually or pre-recorded).
- All entrants may receive an invitation to the Commemoration program, which will be held late May/Early June 2021.

## **Your Manuscript**

- Manuscripts that are illegible, single-spaced or that otherwise don't meet the following requirements will not be judged.
- Do NOT put your name anywhere on your manuscript. That information should be ONLY on the entry form. Including your name on your manuscript will result in disqualification.
- Double-space and TYPED on 8.5" by 11" (standard letter) paper.
- Include the title and page number in the upper right-hand corner of EVERY page, including the first page.
- A completed entry form MUST accompany each individual entry.
- Include a list of all sources used (works cited list). If including a website source, include the name of the online article or website and the complete link to the website. No specific format beyond including complete links is required.
- You may only enter one manuscript.

## **How to Enter**

- Entries are only accepted by email. Email your entry form and manuscript as separate files to [Lamont.Wells@elca.org](mailto:Lamont.Wells@elca.org) or [info@adlaelca.org](mailto:info@adlaelca.org).
- You must complete a cover entry form for the manuscript you are entering.
- Before you submit your entry:
  - Double-check that you have adhered to all instructions in the "Your Manuscript" section of this brochure.
  - Don't be late! Entries must be timestamped by 11:59 p.m. Monday, May 10, 2021.

## **Disclaimer**

The African Descent Lutheran Association(ADLA) and its Partner Organizations reserves the right to reprint, reproduce, publicize and share any submitted writing or essay for this contest. All or part of any submission may be shared across the ELCA and other media outlets in various formats (print, digital, etc.) to increase awareness of this critical understanding of history and its continued effects.