

We acknowledge that the land and water we live on is gifted to all from God-Creator who cares for all Creation. We are Treaty People with our Creator.

We are learning the ways in which we are Treaty People with First Nations peoples. As Canadians we are connected to treaties from coast to coast to coast in Canada. As people of the Central Toronto Ministry Area we are particularly aware of the rushed “purchases” and treaties that began in 1783-84 to settle refugees of the American War of Independence . This settlement was predicated on the [Royal Proclamation of 1763](#) and [the Treaty of Niagara on 1764](#). Ratification of the 1787 ["Toronto Purchase"](#) for example, officially happened only in 1805. Amidst ambiguity and misunderstanding the [agreements](#) have been called by many names including Treaty 13, the Johnson-Butler Purchase, the Toronto Purchase. The Williams Treaties of 1923 were intended to resolve misunderstandings. Land Claim settlements are ongoing.

Two early Lutheran settler groups stand out in our Area, the first is the the [“Berczy Settlers”](#) moving from Hamburg, Germany (via Pennsylvania and New York State after the American War of Independence) claimed land in Markham in 1794 aided by Joseph Brant’s men. The second group were German settlers from Pennsylvania who claimed land in Vaughan Township like Jacob Fisher in [1798](#).

Now Lutherans of our Ministry Area are from across the globe, particularly Germany, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden, but also the Caribbean and South America and areas of Asia. Our story of living

between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe these last two hundred years has been largely ignored in Canadian history as we are neither French nor English, Catholic, Anglican nor Methodist.

Many peoples have shared and also fought over the land along Lake Ontario, particularly the Don, Humber and Rouge River valleys. Undoubtedly our Ministry Area was home to Mississauga, Chippewa and Haudenosaunee nations and Metis. The [Dish With One Spoon](#) inter-national agreement of Original Peoples is a model for peaceful co-existence that we would like to know more about.

We desire live differently into the future of blessing being given to us and our inter-national and international Indigenous and non-Indigenous neighbours by God our Creator.

## Resources Available at

[luthersynodseminary.com](http://luthersynodseminary.com)

[http://luthersynodseminary.com/2016\\_treaties\\_histories\\_of\\_the\\_land\\_and\\_peoples](http://luthersynodseminary.com/2016_treaties_histories_of_the_land_and_peoples)

History of the Land and Peoples Resource for each congregation organized by Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory by Ministry Area

Reflection for 2016-2018 for use with Ministry Areas and Confederacy Neighbours

[http://luthersynodseminary.com/my\\_life\\_indigenous\\_rights/mapping\\_lutherans\\_and\\_first\\_nations](http://luthersynodseminary.com/my_life_indigenous_rights/mapping_lutherans_and_first_nations)

Ministry Area Maps with First Nation Contact Info Updated with Residential School Data

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory by Ministry Area

### **Coming in 2017:**

500 Year timeline of ELCIC and First Nation History in Canada

## Central Toronto Ministry Area

### Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory

We acknowledge that the land and water we live on is gifted to all from God-Creator who cares for all Creation.

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We are learning the ways in which we are also Treaty People with First Nations peoples across our nation.

As people of the Central Toronto Ministry Area we are particularly learning about the rushed local “purchases” and treaties that apply where we live. These agreements began in 1783-84 to settle refugees of the American War of Independence. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764 undergird the later purchases and treaties. The rushed negotiations have resulted in numerous adjustments leading to the Williams Treaties of 1923 and ongoing Land Claim settlements. Undoubtedly our Ministry Area was home to Mississauga, Chippewa Haudenosaunee and Metis nations.

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