

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 also Treaty People with First Nations peoples. The locally produced books "[We are All Treaty People](#)" and "[Nation to Nation: A Resource on Treaties in Ontario](#)" by the Anishinabek Nation are excellent resources showing us that we as Canadians are connected to treaties from coast to coast to coast. Our [immediate neighbours](#) were signatories, and in some cases architects, of the [Great Peace of Montreal in 1701](#), and full [partners in the Treaty of Niagara of 1764](#) following the Royal Proclamation of 1763. These were international peace and sharing accords that paved the way for nation-to-nation land and responsibility transactions between First Nations and the French and British Crowns.

[Land treaties](#) of note include the St. Joseph's Island Chippewa Treaty No. 11 of 1798, the Williams Treaties of 1923 with the Chippewa of Christian Island, Georgina Island and RAMA and also with the Mississauga of Rice Lake, Mud Lake, Scugog Lake and Alderville; and the Pennefather Treaty (with the Batchewana First Nation) leading to Treaty 61, the [Robinson-Huron](#) Treaty. Though we have little interaction with the [James Bay Cree](#), we share treaty land with them. Negotiations were not always conducted with understanding and fairness, responsibilities related to the underlying peace and sharing accords were not honoured and struggles between peoples continues. In our Ministry Area the Batchewana and Wahta First Nations align in the [Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians \(AIAI\)](#) and the other nations align in the [Union of Ontario Indians \(UOI\)](#).

The Union of Ontario Indians has invited us to visit them and we will take them up on the invitation.

Linguistically sophisticated, and strategically minded, our First Nations neighbours were in extensive trading alliances long before European explorers and priests arrived beginning in 1607 with Brule. Trade networks extended from the Atlantic to the Arctic, the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico. Chief [Shingwauk](#) encouraged the nations he led to participate in residential schools to advance international relationships. The church-run schools at Spanish River, Garden River, Sault Ste Marie and Manitoulin Island betrayed his vision of "bridging faith and cultures with knowledge" and we as people of faith now encounter much suspicion, hurt and anger.

We Lutherans did not run Residential Schools, but we failed to see what was being done in Jesus' name to our neighbours. We can honour the work being done now by [Survivors](#) by participating in the programs they invite us to. Moving forward we can let our neighbours teach us how to see them as they are, and perhaps they will see us too. We desire to learn to be Treaty People in a lasting peace of reconciled relationships with our Creator God and First Nations peoples. We are going to begin by attending events that we are invited to in our home communities.

Resources Available at

lutheransynodseminary.com

http://lutheransynodseminary.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://lutheransynodseminary.com/my_life_indigenou_s_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

Northern 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. We are Treaty People with our Creator.

We are also Treaty People with First Nations peoples connected to treaties from coast to coast to coast.

Our immediate neighbours were signatories, and in some cases architects, of the Great Peace of Montreal in 1701, and full partners in the Treaty of Niagara of 1764 following the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

Land treaties of note include the St. Joseph's Island Chippewa Treaty No. 11 of 1798; the Williams Treaty of 1923 with the Chippewa of Christian Island, Georgina Island and RAMA; the Williams Treaty of 1923 with the Mississauga of Rice Lake, Mud Lake, Scugog Lake and Alderville; the Pennefather Treaty leading to Treaty 61 the Robinson-Huron Treaty and the James Bay Treaty of 1905 leading to the modern James Bay Agreement.