

Peace Pole Dedication

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Day of Pentecost June 8, 2014
Duluth, Minnesota



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The Peace Pole Project is the official project of The World Peace Prayer Society. It started in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi, who decided to dedicate his life to spreading the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in response to the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Peace Poles are handcrafted monuments erected the world over as international symbols of Peace. Their purpose is to spread the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the languages of the world. Original Peace Pole Makers USA began crafting Peace Poles for the Project in 1985 and continues to carry on this legacy in Leelanau County Michigan (www.peacepoles.com).

On this Day of Pentecost, we will learn how to say the phrase, “May peace prevail on earth,” in languages that reflect Gloria Dei’s connections to its history, companion churches, and location. Many thanks to all the speakers who are participating. *With each language focus, you are invited to echo the speaker when the word for peace is said, and also after the dedication phrase.*

THE DAY OF PENTECOST – 8 June 2014
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN
 Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23

Some 2000 years ago a great crowd of God’s people gathered from all over the ancient world, and the Holy Spirit empowered them in a new way, to embody God’s reconciling love known in Jesus. Across languages and nationalities, the Spirit enabled them to speak and to hear what God was doing in their midst and to become part of it. This Pentecost, as we dedicate a Peace Pole with words conveying peace in languages connected to Gloria Dei, we give thanks for the same Spirit at work today in our midst, creating peace through local and global relationships of accompaniment. While more cultures and languages than these are represented in this church, these are symbolic of the Spirit’s power to unite people from every nation in mutual understanding.

Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the nonviolent resolution of conflict. Even a quick glance at the world situation reveals many challenges and uncertainties. But as the disciples discovered, this is not the time to “hunker down” behind closed doors but a time to *reach out* with courage and radical love. Risen from the dead, Jesus’ first word to them is “Peace.” And as he breathes the Spirit on them, he sends them out with the capacity to be living expressions of his peace and forgiveness.

That church that began centuries ago, filled with the Spirit, is now us. As we hear of God’s work in these relationships, may that same Spirit empower us to live and speak in such a way that others may know the Spirit that renews the face of the earth and the peace that comes through God’s reconciling love in Christ.

--Pastor David Carlson



SWEDEN/Swedish:

Daphne Amundson, Ebba Brooks
Må fred råda på jorden

TANZANIA/Swahili:

Eldora Recksiedler
Amani iwe ulimwenguni

INDIA/Hindi:

Karen Bockelman, Indira Meherotra
विश्व में शांति रहे

RUSSIA/Russian:

Marlaine Willms, Stephanie Carlson
Пусть будет мир на земле

HONDURAS/Spanish:

Julie Jagim, Ryan Jagim
Que la paz prevalezca en la tierra

OJIBWE/Anishinaabe:

Steve Dalager
Mino-wijiji'idiwin ayaamagak akiing

ANIMAL PRINTS/Rest of nature:

Tom Uecker



ENGLISH: All



1. SWEDEN/SWEDISH

Speaker: Daphne Amundson

Although today Gloria Dei Lutheran is church home to people of many different ethnic backgrounds, a feature for which we are very thankful, our congregation's first language of faith was Swedish. When the steamship "Norman" arrived in Duluth from Chicago in June of 1869, it carried a group of Swedish immigrants, among whom were the founders of this church. Leaving Sweden during a time of economic hardship, they brought with them a vibrant faith shaped by the Swedish Lutheran heirs of the Reformation. They organized formally on November 6, 1870 as "Den Svenska Evangeliskt Lutherska Församlingen i Duluth, Minnesota," the First Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Duluth. Although in 1933 it changed to Gloria Dei, our official name still includes "evangelical," a word that means centered in the gospel, the good news of God's saving love in Jesus Christ.

About that same time, English replaced Swedish as the primary language in the congregation, though an occasional service in Swedish - such as Julotta at Christmastime - was held into the 1980s, and we continue to host the Swedish Cultural Society. But the gospel has been the heart of our ministry since the beginning, birthing other congregations in the area, starting our live radio broadcast in 1942, and it has always been linked with a strong social ministry component, connecting faith and service through the formation of organizations in the community like Lutheran Social Service, Lakeshore, and CHUM.

My prayer for peace in this relationship is that we would continue to trust the same Spirit that guided our founders into new ventures, continually seeking God's guidance and always ready to share the Good News.

Speaker: Ebba Brooks

In Swedish, the word for peace is **fred** *[sounds like "freed"]*
The dedication is: **Må fred råda på jorden**

2. TANZANIA/SWAHILI

Speaker: Eldora Recksiedler

In 1994, Gloria Dei established a sister-congregation relationship with the Ibura Lutheran Parish in the North-West Diocese of Tanzania. We selected Ibura because a relative of Elaine Wickstrom is married to a member of this parish (Josiah Kibira) and his mother still lives there. His father was the bishop there and later became the President of Lutheran World Federation. This parish consists of 3 Lutheran churches with approximately 3,000 members.

Our connection with them blossomed in February 1998, when 5 Gloria Dei members (the Wickstroms, Harry Wick, Helen Carlson, and I) visited the Ibura Parish, which is near Bukoba, Tanzania. We received a very warm welcome everywhere we went, giving greetings at each of the 3 churches, and visiting some of the synod's other programs it operates: Ndolage Hospital, the Reforestation Program, Deaconess School, Orphanage, Women's Training Centers, Handicraft School for Girls, Blacksmith Training for Boys. We also presented bookmarks made by Gloria Dei's Sunday School to theirs. On Sundays in Bukoba, it is not church bells but the rhythm of drums welcoming people to worship!

Many of the people we met that week have become good and lasting friends, and we give thanks to God for how our relationship with Bukoba has continued over the years – which our church web site mentions – including supporting school education for girls and more visits to and from Bukoba.

My prayer for peace in this relationship is for us to continue in the years ahead and may the pole be a reminder of our friends at Ibura Parish in Tanzania, Africa.

Speaker: Eldora Recksiedler

In Swahili, the word for peace is **Amani** *[sounds like ah-MA-nee]*
The dedication is: **Amani iwe ulimwenguni**

3. INDIA/HINDI

Speaker: Karen Bockelman

Gloria Dei connects with India through the Northeastern Minnesota Synod's companion synod relationship with the South Andhra Lutheran Church, located in the southeastern part of India. Founded by a missionary from Germany in 1865, it has had strong ties with German churches, with the former American Lutheran Church, and now with the ELCA. The South Andhra Lutheran Church is a small church body with about 60,000 baptized members, many of whom are dalits (formerly known as "untouchables.") Located in a very rural part of the country, the church faces issues of poverty, education, religious pluralism, health and wellness, and continuing tsunami recovery.

In October 2005, three members of Gloria Dei traveled to Chennai to participate in a consultation with Indian Lutheran companion synods. Kylie Dalager, Ann Willhoite Bell, and Pastor Karen Bockelman joined two others from our synod as well as representatives from two other synods and the ELCA's Division for Global Mission. The purpose of the consultation was to gain a deeper understanding of the Lutheran churches in India, to accompany our Indian brothers and sisters in their ministries, and to learn about the church's HIV/AIDS outreach, women's empowerment programs, and counseling for tsunami victims. Although we continue to pray for them regularly as a companion synod, internal conflicts between factions within the South Andhra Lutheran Church prevent us from communicating regularly.

My prayer is for peace within the South Andhra Lutheran Church and our own ELCA and a renewal of our companion synod relationship.

Speaker: Indira Meherotra

In Hindi, the word for peace is **Shanti** [with a slight th, shanthy]

The dedication is:

विश्व में शांति रहे

4. RUSSIA/RUSSIAN

Speaker: Marlaine Willms

A companion synod relationship with the Ingrian Lutheran Church of Russia was established at our Northeastern MN Synod assembly in 2002. That same year, Pastor Karen Bockelman visited Russia on behalf of our synod, meeting with Bishop Aare Kuukauppi in St. Petersburg and visiting churches in the province of Karelia, including in Petrozavodsk, one of Duluth's sister cities. The synod pledged \$85,000 toward the building of a new church in Petrozavodsk, which was completed a few years ago, and Gloria Dei contributed over \$1000 to the project.

In 2004, Pastor David and Stephanie and their daughters, Katie and Martha, spent three months in Russia representing our synod and assisting church leaders, particularly in the Ural Deanery of the Ingrian Church. David preached and taught in emerging Lutheran churches in five different republics of the Volga region between Moscow and the Ural Mountains, and Stephanie, who is fluent in Russian, interpreted. They returned to Russia in 2005, 2007, and 2011, leading groups of 12 on two-week mission trips to the same area. From Gloria Dei, these trips have included Daphne Amundson, Tanner Hall, Marlaine & Lubov Willms, and Bishop Tom Aitken. These groups participated in the deanery's annual missionary camp in Yoshkar-Ola, a retreat which draws pastors, lay leaders, and youth from throughout the region, and facilitated a church camp for children in Birsk near the Ural Mountains. We're thankful to God for continued visits between our churches, including one this spring when we hosted Aleksandra Seliverstova who directs the diaconal ministry of the Ingrian Church.

My prayer for peace in this relationship is that we continue to walk together in a path of mutual love and respect, honoring each other's culture and history, forging lasting bonds of friendship, trust and understanding for the glory of God.

Speaker: Stephanie Carlson

In Russian, the word for peace is **мир** [sounds like "meer"]

The dedication is: **Пусть будет мир на земле**

5. HONDURAS/SPANISH

Speaker: Julie Jagim

It has been a blessing for Gloria Dei members to participate in our companion synod with the Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras. Since 2005, our synod's trips to the Lutheran Church in Honduras have focused on relationships with pastors and lay leaders of the worshiping communities, and have also involved construction, medical, dental, and other humanitarian projects. From Gloria Dei, Kathy Wimer, Julie Jagim, Patti Maguire, and Bishop Tom have participated in this inspiring relationship of accompaniment. Working and living side-by-side with Hondurans increases understanding and compassion of their daily hardships, including poverty, health issues, and gun violence. As we sing and worship together, we are united by the Spirit and share our faith in personal tangible ways.

The spiritual development of pastors and lay leaders has been identified as the number one priority of the Lutheran Church in Honduras. Teams of clergy and lay teachers and musicians from our synod participate in fall and spring retreats on an ongoing basis. Visitors from the Lutheran Church in Honduras attended our synod assembly in 2011 and we plan to welcome more visitors at next year's assembly.

My prayer for peace in this relationship is that we continue working in shared ministry to experience the love of Jesus Christ, supporting and developing the faith journeys of one another.

Speaker: Ryan Jagim

In Spanish, the word for peace is **paz**

The dedication is: **Que la paz prevalezca en la tierra**

6. OJIBWE/ANISHINAABE

Speaker: Steve Dalager

Long before the Swedes arrived, this area was home to indigenous peoples. In the language of the Ojibwe, "Anishinaabe" means "original people," or "original man." Anishinaabe is how the Ojibwe people identify themselves. The essence of Anishinaabe life is unity, the oneness of all things, expressed in the way life is lived each day, seeking to preserve harmony with all created things. The people cannot be separated from the land with its cycle of seasons, and of birth and growth, death and new birth. This story is deep in their hearts. It has been told in legends and dances, in dreams and symbols, and in the songs a grandmother sings to a child in her arms and that the child learns as he grows. This is a story of the spirit - individual and collective.

There is another story of the Ojibwe people. This story tells of European nations arriving, reshaping the land for themselves and changing the natural balance in which the Anishinaabe people had always lived. It tells of trade and wars and treaties, laws and governments, and above all the long struggle through which the Anishinaabe have tried to preserve their own ways and their own identity.

We are thankful for members of Gloria Dei who share this cultural heritage, including JoAnn McCall, Don Hoaglund, Phoebe Jorgenson, and Susan Chicag. By including Anishinaabe today, we recognize the importance of learning from our past, being open to the wisdom of this tradition, and living lives of reconciliation.

My prayer for peace in this relationship is that the reconciliation between Native and non-Native people, after an often violent and dark history, continue to grow in a positive direction.

Speaker: Steve Dalager

In Anishinaabe, the word for peace is **mino-wijji'idiwin**

The dedication is: **Mino-wijji'idiwin ayaamagak akiing**

7. ANIMAL TRACKS/ REST OF NATURE

Speaker: Tom Uecker

The Spirit that hovered over the waters at creation is the same Spirit that gives the breath of life not only to human beings but also to all beasts of the field, birds of the air, and everything that creeps on the earth. Even molecularly we are related to all creatures and to the earth. Yet we are becoming increasingly aware of the systemic damage this interdependent web of life continues to suffer.

In response, Gloria Dei has become a leader in practicing earth stewardship and cultivating a shared language of environmental sustainability. Since 2007, our Green Team has been setting goals for creation care in our worship, education, building and grounds, home and public life. We have hosted workshops and written resolutions launching a synod-wide Creation Care Team and encouraging congregations to conduct energy audits, establish their own local creation care teams, and recognize earth stewardship as an integral part of all faith practices. We've also been affiliated with Sustainable Twin Ports since 2008, participating as an Early Adopter of The Natural Step framework for understanding the human impact on ecology and making organizational decisions toward environmental sustainability. And we recently helped start an interfaith earthkeeping network with other local congregations.

Animal tracks remind us we are not the only inhabitants of this planet we call home. Even in the middle of Duluth, our small church garden has seen a variety of critters: Monarch butterflies, many different birds, and even a fox this year.

My prayer for peace in this relationship is something that students from Myer-Wilkins Elementary School hear every day after the school day announcements in the morning: Be kind to all the animals out there.

For the dedication, I invite you to think of an animal and the sound it makes, and to make that sound when I raise my arms up.



8. ENGLISH: All

Sisters and brothers in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to dedicate this peace pole to the glory of God. In doing so, we set apart our building and grounds as a place of peace, and join in a common commitment:

- **To cultivate peace within ourselves, in all our relationships, and in all the world;**
- **To oppose violence as an acceptable means of conflict resolution, and to work for a world without war;**
- **To practice intercultural and interfaith understanding, and the celebration of human diversity;**
- **To protect and preserve the earth as the home of humanity and the community of all living things;**
- **To involve as many people as we can, starting with children, in activities that promote a peaceful, healthy world.**
- **May peace prevail on earth!**

Dedication adapted from a similar Peace Pole dedication in Finlayson, MN, 2004.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God...

Be with us now and bless us as we dedicate this pole and this place to your glory and your peace. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in your reconciling love, and lead us to reflect your Spirit of peace in all we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing adapted from *Occasional Services*, Augsburg Fortress, 1982.