

# Faith Lilac Way is Creating a Land Acknowledgement



November is Native American Heritage Month, a time in which we celebrate Native and Indigenous cultures and communities, as well as remember the harm that has been caused to these communities both in the past and in the present.

Over the past year Faith Lilac Way has been engaging in a program called Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices, and the goal of this program is to help us grow deeper in faith and better connect with our neighbors and surrounding community. As part of this process we have been encouraged to create a Land Acknowledgement for Faith Lilac Way.

So what is a Land Acknowledgement? Said simply, it is a statement in which we recognize that the land on which we live, work and worship was first occupied by Native communities—many of whom were forcefully removed as the United States expanded West. History shows us that many Native communities were unjustly mistreated. While the past cannot be undone, we as the Faith Lilac Way Community seek to include, celebrate and stand alongside our Native American and Indigenous neighbors and community members. It is our hope that our Land Acknowledgement speaks to that commitment.

Our Land Acknowledgement is an ongoing work in progress as we continue to learn, but as part of Native American Heritage month we wanted to share this process and its result with you. We are especially thankful for our Native and Indigenous members and friends of Faith Lilac Way who added their input and helped us shape our Land Acknowledgement. In the coming months we will be exploring ways to use this Land Acknowledgement in our community.

## **Faith Lilac Way Land Acknowledgement**

*“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it” (Psalm 24:1)*

This gathering of believers from the Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church community acknowledges that we are located on the ancient and modern homelands of the Dakota Oyate. This land, created by God, has been stewarded as a living relative by the Dakota people for generations. The names of many of the places around our state, including the word Minnesota, are derived from the Dakota language. Mni Sota Makoce means “the land where the earth reflects the sky.”

We acknowledge that the land on which we live was stolen from the Dakota people, followed by genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced removal. The United States government acted unfairly toward the Dakota people through a series of unjust treaties and broken promises. This injustice was often carried out in cooperation with institutionalized white churches. The trauma of forced assimilation and the boarding school system is a stain that cannot be washed away. But we can repent of that past and turn towards a more just future.

We stand resolute in our commitment to oppose any threat to Indigenous culture or tribal sovereignty, be it political, industrial, or religious. We seek to identify and validate the causes of heavy hearts amongst Native people. We look now to the Dakota people and indeed all Native American communities located in the State of Minnesota as examples of resilience, resistance, and strength. We recognize and honor Native culture within our congregation and community, and seek to know and learn from the Native people within our midst.

### **Acknowledgements**

. Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA Land Acknowledgement  
. Minnesota Council of Churches Land Acknowledgement written by Jim Bear Jacobs,  
Program Director for Racial Justice.

. Written in collaboration with Native members within the Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran  
Church community  
. Deanna Getebikwe Bagonegiizhik Waabamaakwa  
Cori Vallis

# Christmas Poinsettias

## ORDER FORM

Please use this form to order flowers for Christmas Eve worship. Orders need to be taken by **Sunday, November 6**. Place your order form in the offering plate during worship along with your check or cash. Please make a check payable to Faith-Lilac Way (FLW) with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. Poinsettias may be taken home following any service on **Saturday, December 24th**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Single (6.5") x \$10.25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Red \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink \_\_\_\_\_  
White \_\_\_\_\_

Double (8") x \$16.50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Red \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink \_\_\_\_\_  
White \_\_\_\_\_

Grand total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by:  **check** or  **cash** (please mark one)

Plant given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your help in decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas! On Christmas Eve, you will be able to check with the ushers on which size/color poinsettias you ordered.*



# Christmas Eve Worship Times Survey!

## HELP US FIGURE OUT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE THIS YEAR!

Because of Covid-19, last year we offered three services to spread out the risk of infection. However, this year we are ready to return to two services.

Please choose the time that you plan to worship  
on Christmas Eve at FLW:

### I want to worship at:

- 3:00PM     4:30PM     10:30PM  
 Not here for Christmas

### If my first choice is not available, I would worship at:

- 3:00PM     4:30PM     10:30PM  
 Sorry, my first choice is the only time that works

*Please turn in by Nov. 13th*

