

Peace Pole Dedication

May 28, 2017

As you can see, there are three different languages represented on our peace pole. We've specifically chosen each one...

English—recognizing this is the language most of us here use each day.

German—in honor of Monica's German heritage and the heritage of St. John's predecessor church, the German Reformed Church.

Bosnian—in honor of Monica's service in Bosnia for the United States Marine Corps

The fourth side states in English, "May peace be in our hearts" since it must begin there for peace to prevail on earth. Peace was in Monica's heart.

So today we gather to dedicate this Peace Pole to the memory of Monica Heckel, and to appreciate and affirm the message of Jesus' life here on earth. Jesus spoke a message of peace in all that he did, and I believe Monica's life also spoke of peace. Let us begin.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." And we are all called to be peacemakers.

All: May peace prevail on earth.

In this holy moment, we pause and remember times when we have not been peaceful or Christ-like in our actions. *(pause)* But the beauty of our life in Christ is that we can move beyond what formerly bound us. We are able to let go. I invite you to let go of those memories and picture Monica's smile. *(pause)*

May peace prevail on earth.

I invite you to begin even now to consider peaceful actions you will take in making this world a more peaceful place – times of silence to meditate on God's word, times to give and share, times to love, times of remembrance of Monica's life. We are called to be peacemakers. May the God who loves and cares for us all help us to envision a new peaceful tomorrow.

May peace prevail on earth.

May peace be in our hearts.

Amen.