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Waterloo Lutheran Seminary at Laurier to unveil Peace Garden

WATERLOO – Waterloo Lutheran Seminary will dedicate a new Peace Garden Nov. 2, featuring a labyrinth, a peace pole, a plaque, and a tree celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The Peace Garden will be dedicated with the help of Bishop Michael Pryse of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, Bishop Mark McDonald, Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, and Kitchener-Waterloo Member of Parliament Peter Braid. Prayers of peace will be offered from various faith traditions.

“We hope this Peace Garden might symbolize the commitment of people of all faiths to the building of peace,” said David Pfrimmer, principal-dean of the Seminary. “And we hope people will accept our invitation to come, meditate, reflect, and to walk the way on peace, by walking the labyrinth in the garden.”

The creation of the garden coincides with the creation of a new undergraduate program offered at the Seminary, Christian Studies and Global Citizenship. Braid will offer thoughts on what faith contributes to the idea of global citizenship in our time.

The labyrinth is a key feature of the garden. “People often walk labyrinths for inner peace,” said Debbie Lou Ludolph, event organizer and dean of the Chapel.

The peace pole is inscribed with the saying, “May peace prevail on Earth” in eight languages including, Mohawk, English, French, Arabic, Chinese, German, Hebrew and Spanish. The plaque remembers all those who have contributed to the Seminary community in the past.

Also in the garden is a Greenspire Linden tree, which was planted to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which will be celebrated in 2017. It is the twin to a tree planted by the Seminary in a Luthergarten (Luther garden) in Wittenburg, Germany – the city where the Reformation began in 1517.

The event is free and open to the public. It will be held Nov. 2 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Peace Garden by the Seminary at Laurier’s Waterloo campus.