



The journey honors the rich traditions of Coast Salish tribes of the Northwest, who travel the waters to meet and gather for trade, ceremony, and celebration.

Canoe Journey holds special significance to Coast Salish Tribes as it truly honors and nourishes the unique relationships and connections with the land, water, and one another.

~ Jay Julius, Chairman, Lummi Nation

Dear Ministers and Justice Leaders:

The Tribal Canoe Journey is coming to Lummi Nation, Bellingham, Washington! On July 24, 2019 Lummi Nation will welcome to its shores more than 10,000 people and 100 canoes from other Tribal Nations along the Pacific Coast (California to British Columbia), New Zealand, Hawaii and Florida.

The Canoe Journey began in 1989, part of the 100th anniversary of Washington Statehood in which the state and indigenous governments signed the [Centennial Accord](#) recognizing indigenous sovereignty. These Canoe Journeys are organized up and down the whole Pacific Northwest Coast and have been hosted by many different Northwest Native communities over the years. Special guest Canoes have been received and welcomed from all around the world.

In recent years, the Tribal Canoe Journey has also offered opportunities for non-native residents to honor and support the First/American Indian Nations of this beautiful region we are blessed to call home. This is opening up of a cultural event to the non-native community, is a significant gesture on the part of our Tribes and Nations.

The Tribal Canoe Journey is an annual event and is hosted by rotating tribal nations along the Pacific Northwest Coast. This year, Lummi Nation has stepped up to host the Tribal Canoe Journey, Sqweshnet Tse Schelangen - "Honoring Our way of Life." Landings, celebrations, feasts and other activities will be held out at Lummi Nation reservation July 24-28th.

Rev. Paul Beckel, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, Bellingham: *I grew up in the Midwest learning about the noble Pacific Northwest Indian tribes as artifacts of a world long-gone. I grew up as a farmer, dependent upon the land, water, and creatures, and as a Christian with an imperative to spread the good news of God's great love. Over the years I've been able to reframe each of these visions: to encounter my Coast Salish neighbors in the context of their living traditions, to develop a spiritual rather than entirely utilitarian relationship with nature, and to recognize that my childhood religious heritage can only reach its fullness in humble communion with the many manifestations of the holy. For all of these reasons I support, and urge you to support, the 2019 Tribal Canoe Journey, which, in bringing together diverse native cultures, will model for all of us the power of intercultural meeting. Our support for the Tribal Canoe Journey, in whatever form it takes, will remind us how our interdependent web of human community thrives through our mutual reinforcement.*

The Canoe Journey is a huge commitment and requires the dedication of a lot of material, volunteer and financial resources. During the five-day celebration, Lummi Nation will furnish 150,000 free meals to guests; provide showers, bathrooms and other facilities for more than 100 canoe families; create spaces and activities for elders, youth and families; and give 10,000 homemade gifts to guests.

So, we are appealing to you for help.

Your individual, organizational and congregational support for the Tribal Canoe Journey can strengthen healing relationships between Lummi Nation and the surrounding community and for other Tribes and Nation and their surrounding communities.

It is an opportunity to honor the Tribal communities of these lands and waters.

It is an opportunity help to revitalize and sustain indigenous culture and identity.

There are several ways in which your congregation can support this event:

- A donation from your congregation or organization
- Asking ten members/congregants to donate \$100 for a total of \$1000 from your congregation,
- Help publicize [this event](#) in your newsletters, on your websites and/or Facebook pages or other social media platform.
- [Volunteer](#) for the final landing at Lummi Nation in Bellingham, WA
- Reach out to your own local Tribes and Nations who are participating and offer your support, especially to those who are [supporting landings](#).

Rev. Charis Weathers, Echoes Lutheran, Bellingham: *The first peoples of this land were the Coast Salish. When settlers arrived and claimed land for themselves their indigenous neighbors were pushed to small parcels. Eventually the Coast Salish peoples were not allowed to practice their traditions or even speak their own languages. The Tribal Canoe Journey is one way the Coast Salish have been reclaiming their history and identity. Many of the canoes are paddled by youth, and the journey becomes a way to forge relationships with each other and with their heritage. As communities of faith we can wholeheartedly support ongoing efforts to affirm and encourage tribal communities to define themselves and their traditions. From my perspective, as the descendant of white settlers and a carrier of the faith that did what it could to suppress and degrade indigenous persons, it is a small step toward decolonization to support the 2019 Tribal Canoe Journey with finances and with volunteering. Successfully welcoming and hosting the canoe journey is a monumental task that can only be accomplished with a lot of outside help. What would the Creator have us do? It is always the same answer: love our neighbors.*

For more information, please contact Beth Brownfield (360-738-8899; bethbrownf@aol.com) or Betsy Pernotto, (360-647-1752; betsyp1045@gmail.com), Community Connections Committee

Thank you from the Paddle To Lummi 2019 Community Connections Committee

Tax-deductible donations can be made

- online through the [Whatcom Community Foundation](#) or
- by check payable to Lhaq'TeMish Foundation (be sure to write Paddle to Lummi 2019 in the memo line). Mail your check with the form below to: Lhaq'TeMish Foundation; 2665 Kwina Road; Bellingham 98226.

Paddle to Lummi 2019 Sponsorship Levels:

King Salmon	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Steelhead	Chum	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Name of Congregation/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

The Paddle to Lummi Community Connections Committee was formed to raise awareness, mobilize volunteers and raise funds to support this massive effort by Lummi Nation.