



COMPANION SYNOD COMMITTEE
SASK SYNOD - ELCIC
IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA UNIDA

WHO ARE THE MAPUCHE?

Our Saskatchewan Synod is a companion with Iglesia Evangélica Lutherana Unida (IELU), the Lutheran Church serving Argentina and Uruguay. IELU's mission point at Cushamen serves a community made up almost entirely of Mapuche people, and Mapuches also belong to the congregations at Esquel, Bariloche, and Comodoro Rivadavia. These four locations in the Patagonia region of southern Argentina are the focus for our companion relationship.

The Mapuche nation is found throughout the southern cone of South America. There are about 250,000 Mapuche people in Argentina and 1 million in Chile. In 1641 the Mapuche nation and the Spanish empire signed the Treaty of Killin, in which the Spanish crown recognized the territorial autonomy of the Mapuche nation. Despite the treaty – unique among the Aboriginal people of the Western Hemisphere - Mapuche people were persecuted by the governments of Chile and Argentina between 1860-1885. Some 100,000 Mapuche were cruelly massacred. The governments confiscated land and forced Mapuches to relocate onto reservations. Today the Mapuche people continue to persist in demanding respect for their rights as a people, the return of their lands, and justice and freedom.

May is Companion Synod Month



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