

## What Do the Handprint Tiles Represent? Why Are They Important?

There is a significant message represented by the handprint tiles that will be included in the Mural going up on Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. This section of the mural is meant to address and acknowledge the great pain, abuse, and loss that the LGBTQIA2S+ community has suffered at the hands of Christian Churches. It is well known that the Christian faith has often been misused in "justifying" and enforcing discrimination against the queer community; this has taken many forms including conversion therapy, excommunication, estrangement, hostility, and more. The handprint tiles are meant to acknowledge this hurt and hold a place for all those who have suffered in spiritual spaces simply for being who God has called them to be. Our Saviour's Lutheran is actively taking steps to become a place of healing for all, and although acknowledging the pain does not make it go away, it is another step forward in reconciliation with the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

When you come to Our Saviour's and place a handprint on a tile you are not only showing your support for reconciliation between spiritual spaces and the queer community, but also helping make Prince George a safer and more accepting place for all.