



North Carolina Synod
ELCA

North Carolina Tribe Pronunciations

As you create and read land acknowledgments in your faith communities, please do so in relationship with the existing tribes in your area. Please consider local Indigenous histories and linguistic traditions when deciphering the correct pronunciations of tribes.

Determining the correct pronunciations is challenging due to several factors. Many tribe names, as we know them now, were transcribed by European settlers who often misunderstood or inaccurately recorded Indigenous languages, leading to inconsistent spellings and pronunciations. Additionally, the forced displacement and assimilation of Indigenous peoples disrupted the transmission of linguistic traditions, causing some pronunciations to be lost or altered over time. Regional accents and variations further complicate efforts to standardize how these names are said today. Efforts to revive and preserve Indigenous languages are ongoing, but reconstructing historical pronunciations remains a complex task that relies on oral histories, linguistic analysis, and collaboration with tribal communities.

State Recognized Tribes

Eastern Band of Cherokee: Eastern Band of CHAIR-uh-kee

Coharie: koh-HAIR-ee

Lumbee: LUM-bee

Haliwa-Saponi: HAL-ih-wah suh-POH-nee

Sappony: suh-POH-nee

Meherrin: meh-HAIR-in

Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation: OH-kuh-nee-chee Band of suh-POH-nee Nation

Waccamaw-Siouan: WAH-kah-maw SOO-uhn.

Additional Tribes from North Carolina

Chowanoke: CHOW-uh-nohk

Croatoan: krow-uh-TOW-uhn

Hatteras: HAT-uh-rus

Moratoc: MOR-uh-tahk

Secotan: SEK-uh-tan

Weapemeoc: WEHP-mee-ock

Machapunga: mah-chah-PUNG-guh

Pamlico: PAM-lih-koh

Coree: KOH-ree

Neuse River: NOOS RIV-er

Tuscarora: tuh-skuh-RAW-ruh

Meherrin: meh-HAIR-in
Cherokee: CHAIR-oh-kee
Cape Fear: KAYP FEER
Catawba: kuh-TAH-buh
Shakori: shuh-KOH-ree
Sissipahaw: SIS-uh-puh-haw
Sugeree: SHOO-guh-ree
Waccamaw: WAHK-uh-maw
Waxhaw: WAKS-haw
Woccon: WAHK-un
Cheraw: shuh-RAW
Lumbee: LUM-bee
Eno: EE-no
Keyauwee: kee-AH-wee
Occaneechi: OH-kuh-nee-chee
Saponi: suh-POH-nee
Tutelo: TOO-teh-lo