

**Calvary Creation-Care Team  
Strategic Plan  
January,2020**

**Purpose:**

The ELCA suggests that for Christians, care of the Earth is not an “environmental cause”. Rather, it is central to our holy calling to treasure the Earth and to care for it as our common home, fully integrating creation-care into our love of God and neighbor. It is therefore the purpose of the Calvary Creation-Care Team to be a catalyst for encouraging creation-care awareness and actions at Calvary, in the community and beyond.

**Goal 1:**

**To organize the “Calvary Creation-Care Team”**

Objective 1: Request approval from the Council through the Outreach Committee - done

Objective 2: Develop a structure to meet Goals 2-6

- Select Leaders: Jack Behr / Ron Hanson
- Select Members of Coordinating Team
- Select Leaders of Each Goal Area

Objective 3: Establish Goal Leader Duties

Objective 4: Evaluate Organizational Effectiveness

- Establish an ongoing list of accomplishments

**Goal 2:**

**To promote creation care to congregational members of all ages through education**

Objective 1: Develop Structure to meet Goal

- Select Leaders: John Gilbertson / Ron Hanson
- Recruit Team Members: Lori Holmgren, Mike Newberg and Jeanie Kopitzke.

Objective 2: Work cooperatively with staff and boards of Children & Family and Youth & Family and Adult education ministries to integrate creation-care into the various programs of education and faith nurture.

- Lift-up some aspect of Creation-Care in each Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter
- Establish a bulletin board in the church building
- Develop and teach ELCA’s program entitled “Awakening to God’s call to Earthkeeping”
- Develop and teach a unit on Creation-Care for 10<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class
- Sponsor activities for “God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday
- Invite the Willmar Municipal Utilities to discuss their green energy program including “Renewable Energy Certificates”

Objective 3: Develop a listing of available books, DVDs, curriculum resources and environmental education materials that can be used in our educational efforts within the congregation.

Objective 4: Develop a speakers’ bureau of people within our area, who would be available to speak/ make presentations in our various program areas of the congregation.

Objective 5: Partner with other organizations to provide education to the community

- Co-sponsor the showing of National Geographic’s documentary entitled “Paris to Pittsburgh”

**Goal 3:****To promote and facilitate creation care actions into day-to-day congregational life at home and work**

Objective 1: Develop Structure to Meet Goal

- Select Leaders: Joel Halbretter
- Recruit Members: Kathy Halbretter, Karen Rinke and Leon Lenz

Objective 2: Promote and provide information on recycling programs available in the area.

- Work with Kandiyohi County Recycling Center to develop and share best practices and options
- Obtain bins for distribution to members to use at home
- Work with "Plasticfilmrecycling.org" and other organizations to develop and share best practices and options to recycle plastic bags
- Develop and provide information on composting methods
- Make recycling opportunities at Calvary more available to members by providing bins in designated area of the Church
- Research other recycling options, including marker recycling at local schools and Calvary

Objective 3: Promote concepts of reducing energy and water to all members of the congregation

- Provide information on opportunities available in our area to reduce water energy usage including weather-stripping kits, low flow shower heads and faucet aerators

Objective 4: Promote concepts of reuse to all members of the congregation

- Explore the feasibility of providing reusable bags to all members of the congregation, encouraging it's use in lieu of plastic bags while shopping

**Goal 4:****To promote and facilitate creation care actions for Calvary building and grounds**

Objective 1: Develop Structure to Meet Goal

- Select Leaders: Scott Glup
- Recruit Members: Kim Larson, Jeff Miller, Jeff Weitzel

Objective 2: TBD

**Goal 5:****To integrate creation care into worship activities**

Objective 1: Develop Structure to meet Goal

- Select Leaders: Ron Hanson / Pastor Tim Malek
- Recruit Team Members

Objective 2: TBD

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## Goal 6:

### To coordinate creation care with the community

Objective 1: Develop Structure to Meet Goal

- Select Leaders: Jack Behr
- Select Members: Ron Hanson, Scott Glup, Steve Medin (Bethel), Christa Rivers (St. Mary's), Wayne Nelson

Objective 2: To inventory who is doing what in the faith community, including:

ELCA Churches: Vinje, Bethel

Area Churches: St. Mary's, Unitarian Universalist Church of Willmar

Willmar Area Ministerial Association

SW MN Eco Faith Network (EFN)

Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC)

MN Interfaith Power and Light

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Montevideo

Other?

Objective 3: To inventory who is doing what in the local / regional community, including:

Government (City / County / State / Federal)

Business / Chamber of Commerce

Non-profit Organizations

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

Service Clubs

Bethesda

Willmar Area League of Women Voters

Youth

Boy Scouts

VOICE Youth Organization

Willmar Schools

YES! Youth Eco Solutions / Prairie Woods

YMCA Center for Youth Voice

Farmers and Farm Organizations

Other?

Objective 4: To inventory who is doing what in environmental organizations, including:

Willmar Area Climate Action Group

Citizen' Climate Lobby MN

100% Clean Energy Campaign – MN ILP

CURE

Land Stewardship Project

Other?

Objective 5: To develop partnerships as appropriate

Calvary Creation-Care Team co-sponsoring "Paris to Pittsburgh"

ELCA: Provided "**Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping**"

Willmar Area Climate Action Group – advocacy / legislation

Citizen's Climate Lobby – advocacy / legislation

Willmar Municipal Utilities – renewable energy certificates

Kandiyohi County Recycling Center – education / brochures for "Love Our Earth" event