

Calvary Creation-Care Coordination Team  
Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2021

Members Present: Cathy and Joel Halbritter, Jack Behr, John Gilbertson, Karina Rice, Pastor Ron Hanson, Pastor Tim Malek and Scott Glup

The meeting was opened via Zoom with remarks and prayer by Pastor Ron

Jack introduced Karina Rice who has volunteered to handle our social media and website needs (design of announcements website and social media). Karina shared her background and interest in helping the team.

The minutes of the November 23, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

Jack volunteered to take minutes for this meeting and asked if anyone else would be interested in the future. It was suggested that the minutes could be placed on the website. Jack and Karina will follow up.

Old Business:

1- Weekly Messenger Creation-Care Tips:

Cathy and Joel have tabulated the creation care tips that were submitted by team members and have submitted them to be included in each weekly Messenger and Facebook. The team members present felt that it is being very well done. There was discussion about the potential of including them on the website. Jack and Karina will explore options to do so.

2- Feedback Mechanism on website:

In response to the request that a feedback mechanism be added to the website, Krista has placed the church's "Connect with Us" tab at the bottom of the home page, the Goals page, the news page and the photos page. Any comments would be fielded by church office staff and forwarded to the team co-chairs. A request was made that Jack and Karina explore whether a mechanism can be created for the Creation-Care website only.

3- Photos on website with a story:

A suggestion had been made to allow an option of adding a short story to submitted photos. The team felt that photos should be able to be submitted with captions that could include a person's name and/or the location where the photo was taken; a short story; or stand alone. Scott will work with Karina and/or Krista to add a new photo with a short story as an example to evaluate.

4- Video Clips:

A suggestion had been made to produce a series of video clips on "creation gratefulness" similar to what the Council did on the "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" series. Ron agreed to follow up with Krista on this idea and Scott volunteered to do a trial video to review

#### 5- Outdoor Creation-Care Event:

Originally an outdoor event was envisioned to be a Winter Solstice project, but it was decided to do a “And Heaven and Nature Sing” display at the December 20th Advent drive-thru event. The team has received positive feedback from members of the congregation who participated. The team also suggested that more outdoor events should be planned in the future. Suggestions included:

- Working in conjunction with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center on an Earth Day event in April
- Exploring the potential of a pollinator rain garden on the property west of the church (the Bethesda property)
- Developing a “God’s Work / Our Hands” project in September
- Considering a MNDOT or County “Adopt a Highway” project

#### 6- Coordination of Website / Facebook:

It was felt that we should coordinate all communications (website / Facebook / Weekly Messenger /other). Karina will help with this objective.

#### 7- Youth Involvement:

It is the consensus of this team that we need to get the youth involved in creation care activities. Karina has great experience working with the youth (GLBC / Board of Youth & Family / etc.) and will have some good ideas on this subject. It was felt that in coordination with the Board of Youth & Family Board it would be best to develop active hands-on projects. Examples discussed included:

- Cleaning up a stream
- Cleaning up the ditch (Peach Creek?) leading to the Grass Lake Restoration area

#### 8- Events Calendar:

The team reviewed an Events Calendar that included potential activities for the years

- 2021
  - March:
    - NE ELCA Synod Eco Faith Summit may be done virtually again as they did last year
  - April:
    - Earth Day event in collaboration with Prairie Woods
    - Ron has ordered an Interfaith Power & Light program entitled “Sacred Ground” to review
    - Ron is looking into registering for an “Eco America program. He will share information with team members.
  - Summer:
    - Plan outdoor activity(s)
  - September:
    - Hopefully we will be able to re-start indoor activities
    - Display in Narthex
    - Seasons of Creation worship service by Lutherans Restoring Creation may be done again.

- Pastor Tim mentioned that Pastor David is exploring the use of a new hymnal “All Creation Saints”.
- October / November / December:
  - Consider repeating “Awakening to God’s Call to Earthkeeping” 4 session class
  - Adult Forum(s) that might include a “Climate Change 101” session
  - A forum by Ron and Scott that had to be cancelled in March, 2020.
- 2022
  - Calvary’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Creation Care Community Event
    - Featuring Barbara Rossing, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
    - Pastor Tim agreed to do some preliminary work on this project, but will need support from a team of people including staff and volunteers. Team members are encouraged to consider helping with this project and/or recruiting congregational members to help.
    - Coordination with the Anniversary task force is important
    - Having community co-sponsors (Vinje? Bethel? Other?) should be considered

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30pm. The meeting was adjourned before discussing whether the meeting should be done via Zoom or in person.

The focus of the agenda will be to review the strategic plan. It was tentatively decided to meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

The meeting was adjourned at the end of the second 40-minute Zoom session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Behr