

**Calvary Creation-Care Coordination Team**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 2021**

Members Present: Bob Dickerson / Joel Halbritter / Jack Behr / John Gilbertson / Kim Larson / Ron Hanson / Pastor Tim Malek / Scott Glup

The meeting was opened via Zoom with prayer by Pastor Ron.

The minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The purpose of the meeting was to review recommendations of Goal Leaders for changes in the Strategic Plan dated January 2020.

**Purpose statement: 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.**

Jack recommended that there be no changes.

**Goal 1: “To organize the ‘Calvary Creation-Care Team’”**

Jack reviewed and recommended the following:

- Goal 1: no change is needed
- Objective 1: no change is needed
- Objective 2: recommended adding the following action plans
  - Establish Goal Leader Duties: move from Objective 3
  - Develop a coordinated communications plan that includes conventional communication tools as well as website, social media and other virtual tools such as Zoom
    - Creation Care Tips in Weekly Messenger, and potentially other communication tools (e.g. website and Facebook)
    - Explore feedback mechanisms on website
    - Explore option of adding photos with a short story in addition to standalone photos and photos with captions to the website
    - Explore the suggestion to produce a series of video clips on “Creation-Care Gratefulness”

Discussion: Karina Rice has decided to discontinue her volunteer work with social media programs at Calvary. Krista Willis will work with the Team to do what she can to assist, understanding that her work schedule is tight. There may also be opportunities for Team members to learn how to accomplish some of the action plans.

- Develop and administer a time and talents survey to find congregational members willing to help with various aspects of Creation-Care

Discussion: If a mail survey were developed, the cost would be \$200 – 300 to send it out. There may be some web-based survey tools that could be utilized.

- Develop a financing plan for Creation-Care activities

Discussion: Financing sources could include grants, special funds, endowment funds, Thrivent Action Team dollars and fund-raising projects. We may need to find a volunteer to help write grants.

- Objective 3: Add the following action plan
  - Develop and keep up to date a Creation-Care Events Calendar

**Goal 2: “To promote creation care to congregational members of all ages through education”**

Ron indicated that he had no changes to propose

Discussion: John felt that a bike trip from Church to the Kandiyohi County Museum could be sponsored by the Creation-Care Team

Pastor Tim presented a vision of what the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event would look like as it relates to Creation-Care. It would be a 3-day event with Friday designated for area clergy, Saturday for the community at large, and Sunday for preaching. He will contact Barbara Rossing to discuss her availability and other details. He is seeking the assistance from volunteers who would serve as a steering committee. He encouraged a member of the Creation-Care Team to volunteer.

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

Joel indicated that he had no changes to propose

Discussion: Joel suggested that team members should be more involved in the process of placing photos on the website to assist staff.

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

Scott would like to focus on four areas before anything new is proposed including renewable energy credit program, solar array for Calvary, a rain garden / pollinator plot, and sustainable practices on Calvary’s farmland.

The following objectives and workplans could be added to the strategic plan:

- Objective 2: Promote ecologically sustainable building systems
  - Develop and recommend a solar array system for Calvary
- Objective 3: Promote ecologically sustainable building practices
  - Recommend the implementation of the Willmar Municipal Utilities Renewable Energy Credit program
- Objective 4: Promote ecologically sustainable use of land owned by Calvary
  - Develop and recommend sustainable practice on Calvary’s farmland
  - Develop and recommend a rain garden / pollinator plot on Calvary’s land (Old Bethesda property)

Discussion: Scott expressed a concern that it is challenging to know where to go in the organization to get things done.

Ron informed the team that Jeff Weitzel has withdrawn from the Creation-Care Team. Ron has been attempting to follow up with Jeff.

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

Ron indicated that he had no changes to propose

Discussion:

Ron suggested the following:

- there needs to be an increase in members on this team

- contact needs to be made with the worship board
- creation-centered devotional materials need to be developed

Pastor Tim discussed the following:

- Rogation Day (April 25) where we offer up special prayers for crops
- God's Work / Our Hands Day (September 12) is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Two years ago we planted a tree on the old Bethesda property
- Cleaning up a water way leading to the Grass Lake project
- All Creation Saints hymnal
- Partnership with Green Lake Lutheran Ministries
- Summer Worship Services could include an 8:00 service with the organ and an outdoor service to follow where creation-care can be brought into it

Pastor Tim also reminded team members that Calvary is already doing some things, including:

- Confession and Forgiveness - we have sinned against God for not caring for creation
- Prayers of Intercession – there is always one petition around environmental issues
- Love in a divided world – has discussion related to the environment

Ron will place some of these ideas into the goal / objective / action plan format of the strategic plan as a guide on how to move forward

#### **Goal 6: “To coordinate creation-care with the community**

Jack suggested that the post-pandemic focus should be on Objective 3: “To inventory who is doing what in the local / regional community”.

#### **Other Discussion:**

- Ron sent information on the 10<sup>th</sup> annual American Climate Leadership Summit that will be held on April 27, 28 and 29. He encouraged members to review the agenda and register if interested.
- Ron mentioned that the Interfaith Power & Light organization has put together a “Celebrate Earth Day” event entitled “Sacred Ground: Cultivating Connections Food, Faith and Climate”. Ron has ordered their kit that we may use. Earth Day is on April 22.
- Ron is exploring whether Lutherans Restoring Creation will be offering a worship service this year for Earth Day like they did last year.
- Scott informed the Team that Prairie Woods Environmental Center has not decided on doing an Earth Day project this year. If they do, Calvary could possibly be involved in some way.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:30. Preliminary thoughts are to meet in person in Bethany Hall with appropriate precautions in place.

Pastor Tim closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Behr