

Calvary Creation-Care Coordination Team  
Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2021

Members Present: Bob Dickerson / Jack Behr / John Gilbertson / Jeanie Kopitzke / Pastor Ron Hanson / Pastor Tim Malek / Scott Glup

The meeting was opened in person with prayer by Pastor Ron.

The minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

1- Communications:

Krista Willis was available for this portion of the meeting.

- At Joel's suggestion, Jack met with Teri and Pastor Tim to explore ways the Creation-Care (CCC) team could assist staff.
  - The primary recommendation made was to assign an email address to CCC ([creationcare@calvarywillmar.org](mailto:creationcare@calvarywillmar.org)) This would allow the team to:
    - Design their own Facebook page
    - Create their own Google Drive
    - Do electronic surveys
    - Solicit feedback
    - Have photos and feedback come directly to team members
- Jack also met with Krista
  - It is Krista's opinion that an email address could be helpful, but Facebook may be too time consuming for the CCC team.
  - Since the webpage has finite space available, we may need to limit the number of photos on webpage. There are currently 31 photos that have been submitted by members of the congregation.
  - With current staffing levels, office staff feel that they can handle one project per week. It could be a Creation Care Tip, a photo, or other updates that are requested.
  - Jack indicated a willingness to be the point person for the new email account but feels that it would be helpful to have assistance from someone who is more technologically astute.
  - The subject of doing a Creation Care Survey was also discussed. Krista shared the following:
    - There is a time & talents survey now being discussed for April. They can add a question on Creation Care to seek out volunteers.
    - We could also do a brief survey in a "post / announcement" format to seek out volunteers.
    - Doing a survey on Google Survey / Survey Monkey would need to wait for increased staff (or volunteer) time was available.
    - Jack, Ron and Pastor Tim will continue to explore a formal survey in addition to the ones listed above.
- It was the consensus of the team members present that an email address should be added, and that we should name it "creationcare@calvarywillmar.org"

2- Creation-Care Tips: Cathy and Joel - No Report

3- Youth Involvement: Ron – No Report

4- Events Calendar 2021: Jack / Ron

Jack handed out a revised Events Calendar for 2021 (See Attached). The calendar is an attempt to list all the suggestions that have been discussed in past meetings. Areas discussed included:

- Lenten offerings on March 3 in the amount of \$943 (and likely more) are for use by the CCC team. A special fund will be established that can be added to over time and can be used at the CCC team recommendation.
- Two educational opportunities were announced:
  - On April 17 the NE MN ELCA Synod will be sponsoring an on-line Eco Faith Summit: [www.nemnsynod.org/ecofaith-summit-20211.html](http://www.nemnsynod.org/ecofaith-summit-20211.html). Professor Barbara Rossing will be the keynote speaker. Ron and Jack are registered, and everyone is encouraged to attend.
  - On April 27 – 29 an Eco-America Climate Leadership Summit will be held on-line: <https://web.cvent.com/event/ed5af75f-48ab-434f-8666-2d1854f7789c/summary>. There is a cost structure listed for this event. Jack and Ron are registered to attend and other members are encouraged to consider attending.
- Rogation Day (April 25) / Earth Day (April 22) activities were discussed:
  - Lutheran's Restoring Creation will be having a creation-focused service on Earth Day: [https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/event/creation-focused-service-for-earth-day-2021/?instance\\_id=69](https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/event/creation-focused-service-for-earth-day-2021/?instance_id=69).
  - Ron will call a meeting with Jeanie, Jack, and Pastor Tim to further discuss options
- Potential Summer Projects were discussed:
  - It was the consensus of the team that the feasibility of a youth project involving the clean-up of ditches behind the mall, Cub Foods, Target and WalMart should be pursued
    - Pastor Naomi and the Youth & Family Board should be consulted
    - The contact person at the City of Willmar Public Works Department is Gary Manzer @ 235-4252. Note: after the meeting Gary has been contacted and has expressed excitement about this project.
  - Another potential summer project that should be explored further is the Rain Garden / Pollinator Plot project.
    - The Buliding, Grounds & Maintenance Committee should be consulted
    - The Mission Endowment Fund Committee could be consulted for potential financial support.
  - Other projects on the list should also be considered
- All projects listed in September through December should be considered at a later date.

5- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Pastor Tim

The Anniversary Task Force is being formulated. It was noted that Kim Larson, a CCC Team member has volunteered to serve. Also, John volunteered to serve on the committee as he claims that he has been a member of Calvary for all 150 years.

## Team Progress Reports:

Goal 2: Congregational education at all age levels - Ron Hanson / John Gilbertson

- Ron and John have met

Goal 3: Individual member creation-care actions at home, work, and church – Joel and Cathy Halbritter

- Pastor Ron suggested that Joel and Cathy take a look at a program created by the Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light organization entitled “Become a Climate Justice Household”: <https://www.mnipl.org/household>.

## New Business:

1. John brought up several creation care thoughts, including:

- Concordia College (Moorhead) is now listed in the Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges. He has been unable to find a corresponding accreditation organization for Churches
- Near the north end of County Road 41 there is a beautiful pollinator plot belonging to Gary Johnson
- He suggested that other community organizations should be made aware of what Calvary is doing
- Doug Wilkowski’s picture was on Facebook when he was picking up trash
- We are all “creations of God”. We need to take care of each other.

2. Time and Talents Survey: Jack / Ron

Ron, Pastor Tim, and Jack have met to review a draft of the survey and discuss the pros and cons. They established the purpose of survey to be

- To get a feel for how members feel about creation care
- To be able to measure success over time
- \*To find people who are willing to assist us

There are multiple methods of distribution, including:

- Electronic Survey (e.g., Survey Monkey / Google Survey)
- Forums / Narthex Displays such as Earth Day where we can get immediate return
- Church Time & Talents survey – April 2021
- Post / Announcement format
- Mail
- E-mail
- Polling on Facebook may be possible

This is a work in progress that could use the assistance of someone experienced in surveys

- There are 800 households and 2000 confirmed members in the population to potentially include

3. Financing Plan: Jack briefly discussed the action plan to put together a Financing plan that would describe projects that may require financing and potential sources of financing and staffing needs.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:30 in Bethany Hall.

Members shared several creation care observations made in recent days. Spring is beginning and nature is awakening!

Pastor Tim closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Behr

Calvary Lutheran Church  
Events Calendar  
2021

January

February

14 Valentine's Day / "Love Your Earth" Sunday – **CANCELLED**  
New Hymnal "All Creation Sings" – Pastor David

March

3 Lenten Service Offerings to Creation Care

April

17 NE ELCA Synod Eco Faith Summit

22 Earth Day

25 Calvary Rogation Day – Pastor Tim

Lutheran's Restoring Creation: Creation-Focused Service for Earth Day 2021

26 Interfaith Power & Light Program "Sacred Ground– Cultivating Connections Food, Faith and Climate"? - Ron

4/27 - 29 Eco-America Climate Leadership Summit – Ron / Jack

Prairie Woods Earth Day Celebration? – Scott

May

Summer: Bike trip from Calvary to Kandiyohi County Museum? - John  
Youth Project cleaning up a waterway to Grass Lake?  
Youth Project - Green Lake Bible Camp Partnership?  
Youth Project – Prairie Woods Environmental Center Partnership?  
Outdoor services – Pastor Tim  
MNDOT Adopt a Highway / County Adopt a County Road  
Rain Garden / Pollinator Plat – Scott / Jeff

September

1 World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

12 "God's Work – Our Hands" Project

"Seasons of Creation" Worship Service by Lutherans Restoring Creation? – Ron  
Display in Narthex?

October - December

Repeat 'Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping" and/or "Climate Change 101"

Display in Narthex

Adult Forum(s)

- Climate Change 101

- Forum cancelled in March, 2020 by Ron and Scott