

Calvary Creation-Care Team
Accomplishments

2019

- Team formed in May
- Purpose statement formulated
- Team authorized by the Church Council to report to the Outreach Committee
- Strategic Plan Developed establishing goals, objectives, and action plans
- Teams formed
- Sunday, September 1: special prayer in observation of World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation
- Sunday, September 8: God's Work / Our Hands-on Rally: tree planted and advocacy letter-writing project
- September 18: Presentation to Confirmation Class
- September 26: Willmar Municipal Utilities education on Renewable Credit Certificates
- October 22: Co-sponsored showing of "Paris to Pittsburgh" documentary at Vinje
- October: Four session education program for congregational members entitled "Awakening to God's call to Earthkeeping"
- December 10: Building and Grounds Team arranged a presentation on Solar Power to the Coordinating Team. Presentation made by Hal Kimball, from Blue Horizon Energy

2020

- February 16: "Love Our Earth" display in the Narthex.
- March 22: Adult Forum CANCELLED
- April 19: Calvary Earth Day CANCELLED
- July: Creation Care webpage added to "calvarywillmar.org" - https://www.calvarywillmar.org/creation_care.html
- September: Seasons of Creation Worship Service by Lutherans Restoring Creation
- December 20: "And Heaven and Nature Sing" display at the Drive-thru Advent Journey to Bethlehem event.

2021

- Creation Care Tips began to be posted regularly in the Weekly Messenger and Facebook
- A "Connect with Us" tab was added to the webpage to allow feedback
- February 14: Valentine's Day / "Love Your Earth" Sunday CANCELLED
- February: New hymnal "All Creation Sings" added for worship use
- March 2: Lenten Service offerings established new Creation Care Special Fund
- April 17 NE Minnesota ELCA Synod Eco Faith Summit
- April 24: Encouraged attendance at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center Earth Day Event
- April 25: Rogation Sunday service
 - Faith Circles pollinator planting project for the Courtyard
 - Gift of Wildflower seed heart to all in attendance
 - Lutheran's Restoring Creation (LRC) creation-focused service
- April 27 – 29: Eco-America Climate Leadership Summit
- May 13: Met with Willmar Area Climate Action Group and City of Willmar representative to discuss the status of the City's GreenStep program

- Summer:
 - Outdoor Wednesday Services
 - Willmar Public Schools discussion regarding re-instituting Prairie Woods YES Program
 - Visit with City Council member about the University of Minnesota phosphorus recycling project
- Fall:
 - Co-sponsored “Share the Bounty” project with the Social Concerns Committee
 - Trex plastic bag recycling program started
 - Cornerstone Construction textile recycling program started
- November 13: Retreat at Green Lake Bible Camp

2022

- January 18: Public thank you to Building, Grounds and Maintenance Committee for their work in Creation Care over the years
- March:
 - NE MN ELCA Synod EcoFaith Network training sessions X 5
 - March 23: Lenten Service Offering to Creation Care Special Fund
 - March 26: NE MN ELCA Synod EcoFaith Network Summit
- April 24 – Earth Sunday
 - Earth Sunday Worship Services
 - Sunday School Atrium Pollinator Planting Project
 - 150th Anniversary Tree Giveaway in conjunction with the Vinje Community Tree Project
- Summer
 - Approval granted to create a 60’ x 60’ Pollinator Plot on the old Bethesda property. The goal is to plant the area in the fall of 2022.
 - Three outdoor services held each month during the summer months
 - Two dishwasher racks for reusable communion cups ordered for trial use
 - July 24: Calvary Bike Ride
- Fall
 - Co-sponsored “Share the Bounty” project with the Kindness Committee
 - September 11: “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday project involving preparation of Pollinator Plot for planting
 - September 11: Second Calvary Bike Ride
 - “Evolve Recycling” printer ink cartridge recycling project implemented
 - Creation Care incorporated into Confirmation programming
 - October 2: Blessing of “stuffed animals” to represent pets
 - October 23: Planting of the Pollinator Plot / “Bison Stomp”
 - November 6: Reusable Glass Communion Cups now being used in lieu of plastic disposable cups
 - December 8: Interfaith Power and Light Webinar – “Federal Funding Resources for Nonprofits and Houses of Worship”

2023

- January: EcoFaith Network Creation Care Connections Webinar - “Return to the Sun – Beyond the Winter Solstice”
- February:
 - Met with Building and Grounds Committee about the formation of a Team to explore energy efficiency and renewable energy.
 - Interfaith Power and Light Webinar – “Planning the Energy Future of your Congregation”
 - Blessed Tomorrow Ambassador, Karen Kraemer trial run presentation to the Creation Care Team and representatives from Vinje and Bethel.
- March:
 - Worship Service: “Life-giving Water”
 - Blessed Tomorrow Ambassador, Karen Kraemer Forum presentation
 - Fund Raiser for communion cup dishwasher racks – raised \$418.00 plus Thrivent Action Team grant.
 - Formulation of Energy Efficiency / Renewable Energy Team
 - Team members will be Tom Gilbertson, Les Halverson and Joel Halbritter
 - The team will begin benchmarking Calvary’s energy usage with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager software, set energy efficiency goals, measure success, and will explore the feasibility of renewable energy projects, including solar energy.
- April:
 - EcoFaith Network Creation Care Connection Webinar – “Youth and Growth”
 - EcoFaith Network Summit in Duluth – “The Pollinator Plot – Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis”
 - Sunday School Atrium Pollinator Planting project
 - Earth Sunday
 - Worship Service with Creation Care focus
 - Temple Talk
 - Gift of Native Pollinator Seeds
- May:
 - Contacted Gary Geer, Kandiyohi County Environmental Services Director
 - Agreed to sponsor Share the Bounty” program
- June:
 - Donated a Trex bench to “The Village” and agreed to auction off the next bench as a fundraiser for a church program.
 - Decided to support the League of Women’s Voters and the City of Willmar on a Willmar Area Earth Day EcoFair 2024 Event. The event will occur on April 27, 2024.
- July:
 - Glacial Ridge Trail Bike Ride
 - EcoFaith Network Creation Care Connection Webinar
- August:
 - Willmar Public Schools decided to offer a Prairie Woods YES (Youth Eco Solutions) Program. Will promote the program to Calvary Youth.
 - Authorized \$230 for the purchase of caring for creation books for the Church Library
 - Aug 27-29, 2023: EcoFaith Network Retreat, Camp Onamia
- September: Installed a split-rail fence on the north side of the Pollinator Plot as part of God’s Work / Our Hands Sunday

- October:
 - Oral B Recycling Project / Decided to repeat project on a quarterly basis
 - Approved sponsorship of First Annual Healthy Earth Healthy Kids EcoFair to be held on April 27, 2024
 - :Supported Prairie Woods YES Program at Willmar Public Schools
- December:
 - Made application for Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) Cool Congregation Challenge
 - Approved updated strategic plan
 - Reviewed first draft of Calvary Creation Care Brochure