

Creation Care Sunday IDEAS LIST

prepared by the Creation Care team of the Metro D.C. Synod

In general, five areas of congregational ministry involve Creation Care. Urge your congregation to do something in all of these areas.

WORSHIP

- Use local flowers for altar decorations
- Use bread from a local bakery and/or local wine for communion
- Special Liturgies: www.letallcreationpraise.org/worship-services/earth-day?pli=1
- Preach on Creation: www.letallcreationpraise.org/preaching/eco-justice-sermons
- Hymns that celebrate creation: www.letallcreationpraise.org/liturgy/hymns
- Turn off half the lights in the church for worship
- Have a portion, or the entire, worship service outside in a garden
- Include a blessing of the plants/animals/soil
- Use a confession that highlights pollution/environmental degradation.

EDUCATION

- Kick off "Caring for Creation" series - God's call to Earthkeeping available for download from http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Awakening_To_Gods_Call_To_Earthkeeping.pdf
- With children, have a creation care carnival instead of normal Sunday School.
- Let children color lightswitch placards that encourage people to turn off the lights. Template: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/greenschoolsfocus/pdf/sertswitchcover.pdf
- Watch Erik Bakus' Together in Mission talk (Jan 26, 2014) and discuss: to be posted to <http://timmetrodc.org/>

BUILDINGS & PROPERTY

- Make sure faucets have aerators installed.
- Program thermostats for summer to be no colder than 72; winter, no higher than 68
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED lights (or at least CFLs)
- Get an energy audit to find out where you can save money and energy
- Install native trees, plants, and landscaping

ADVOCACY

- Join Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light: www.gwipl.org
- Find out your local watershed and see if you can connect with their watershed

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continued

group

- Offer your church as a host for environmental groups to use for free
- Advocate for renewable energy policies
- Sign up for Lutheran Advocacy email alerts about the environment: www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy/Get-Involved
- Investigate divestment big oil policies and advocate for your alma mater/church/mutual fund to invest with your values at heart: www.opb.org/news/blog/ecotrope/oregon-evangelical-lutherans-request-divestment-from-fossil-fuels/

DISCIPLESHIP AT HOME & WORK

- Make sure your workplace and household are recycling
- Stop using Styrofoam and/or plastic water bottles and replace them with reusable mugs and water bottles
- Get a compost bin for food scraps and other compostable waste
- Install a rain barrel on at least one gutter
- Turn off your computer/TV/other appliances/ lights when not using them
- Consider purchasing an electric lawnmower
- Turn part of your yard into a growing not mowing area
- Once a month or week, take public transportation to work or carpool
- Fast once a month for climate change talks in 2014
- Switch to non-toxic cleaners or natural cleaners (i.e. vinegar, baking soda, lemons): <http://shopping.yahoo.com/news/66-all-natural-cleaning-solutions-175223583.html>
- Use a solar clothes dryer (aka, a clothesline or a clothes drying rack)
- Set hot water heater temperature between 120°F and 125°F
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED's or CFL's
- Use fans instead of air conditioning to keep cool



www.metrodcelca.org/events/creation-care-sunday