

## So, What Are We Doing to Nurture the Environment?

*April 11, 2018*

Sometimes becoming environmentally aware seems pretty daunting. We lament that “the crisis is too big... It seems we’re just too late... What can we do anyway?” Well, consider what action is already being done and considered by our Lutheran congregations in the Winnipeg area! This is an indication of wonderful action already undertaken. And the lists may stimulate others of us to try something more! It’s a good beginning!

### Gardening

Created and maintained a LUM Garden behind the church

    Lousy land – needed reclamation – composting over several years

    Drew others in for help – grow produce and deliver to LUM

    “Faith based” no watering!

Seasonally we compost yard and kitchen waste (from the Daycare)

Conduct Spring and Fall neighborhood clean-up days

Leave grass clippings on the lawn – Had to advocate with lawn care company to change practice

    Company was reluctant because of its image

Use composters

Green practices in landscaping with compost – considering developing neighborhood composting site

Created a Memorial Garden with bench – ashes interred

### Reduce – Reuse - Recycle

Collects batteries for recycling

Replaced Styrofoam cups and plates from the kitchen

Recycle electronic waste

Recycle paper and cardboard

Use recycling boxes for what is recyclable

Have shifted from disposable to washable dinnerware for all community events

    Serve 80/week – have commercial dishwasher

    Have maxed our recycle capacity – purchased second bin

    Pursuing becoming paperless - use e-mail announcements

    Sunday bulletin reduced to one 11x17 sheet for worship

Limited paper and plastic products – provide enough dishes for all events

Used to collect aluminum cans and resell – when allowed to do so.

Recycle toner and ink cartridges

Use recycled paper for office and towels – recycle paper after use

300 quilts made in 2017 from recycled materials – **also pet beds, donated to the Humane Society**

Moving to electronic filing

Utilize e-news

Mitten tree has grown to three!- with offerings to local schools

Members recycle materials into prayer crosses and prayer shawls

Have not eliminated Sunday bulletin but have streamlined it

### Events

Have sponsored two Earth-Day events with evening speaker from the university

Annual Mission Sunday emphasizes environment

June – St. James Anglican celebrates indigenous treaties and stewardship of mother earth  
Wondering about emphasis for Advent and Lenten seasons  
Promote Lutheran-Muslim partnership with Ugandan hospital and clinic  
Involved Professor Walker-Jones in a study of the Psalms as a Green Psalter, community series a few years ago  
We sponsored a five-week evening adult study on Eco-Reformation

### Utilities

Replaced sanctuary lighting with LED  
Replaced furnace with high-efficiency  
Replaced plumbing with more efficient models to reduce consumption  
Considered going geo-thermal with building renovations, but too expensive at the time  
Changing sanctuary lighting for greater efficiency

### Worship

Use hand sanitizers for worship leaders and members  
Worship utilizes PowerPoint and only one page of paper for bulletin  
Have gone to electronic newsletter  
Practice Seasons of Creation, an annual observance using resources from LWF and Australia  
Modify creeds and confessions –  
Have specific paraments illustrating recycling and factories  
No longer use printed bulletins – ecological emphasis on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
Bulletins for liturgies are printed on card stock as an insert to be reused  
Worship Committee seeking to include Indigenous understanding – part of Truth and Reconciliation  
Occasional sermon illustrations, no specific preaching  
Include prayers in the petitions, introduction to the day and illustrations but not specific sermon  
Promote care of the earth as a Christian vocation! We are stewards, not exploiters!

### Administrative Action

Motion to Council – “be environmentally conscious”  
Congregational debate – what costs more? Silverware and cups or Styrofoam?  
Encourage PAR and use tract rack for memorials – to reduce paper  
The local residence Arms of the Cross added solar panels  
– will replace windows with energy efficient ones  
Congregation has motions in the books to create community composting bins but no action taken yet  
– requires organization and management.  
Replaced carpet with hardwood flooring out of concern for air quality

### Partnerships

SS supported CLWR raising funds for chickens last year  
Attempt to share space with the community  
Use Fair Trade Coffee  
Speak of creation as a Gift as part of ELCIC “Not for Sale” emphasis  
Offer a lending library – men build the boxes and promote book exchanges throughout the neighborhood –  
Sponsor a neighborhood picnic to introduce people to the lending library

Belong to Neighborhood Resource Network – use recycling boxes  
Partner with WRHA  
Provide a “Manshed” wherein men share tools – build community box gardens  
Use seeds from Wpg Harvest  
Participated in the Reformation Challenge encouraging planting trees  
Had some pushback because of employees in resources extraction  
Support a local food bank with 25 clients – encourage local ownership with gardens  
Dieticians partner with a food bag, providing recipes, cooking tips and samples  
Why heat an empty building? – Provide free space to community organizations every day of the week!

#### Recommended Resources and ideas

**Stewardship idea: use envelopes with number but no date**

– recycle unused envelopes with labels – volunteers

Suggest the book *The Hidden Life of Trees*

May consider Lent as a time to explore relationship with the environment

Recommends “Painting the Stars”, a series owned by Rev. Annemarie as part of “Living the Questions”

Could suggest creating a committee – may also discuss with Area Strategy and ALIGN commitments

A walk around the neighborhood

Could partner with local Mennonites or Anglicans or....

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Check out our on-line resources for.... **Website under construction will notify when running**

Worship suggestions

Course outlines

Videos

Books

Links to partnerships, libraries, articles, documents, church position statements and more....

Updated regularly! Hope to include announcements and invitations!

Have suggestions? Recommendations? Accomplishments to report?

Contact Pastor Dave Saude at [elcicsaude.com](http://elcicsaude.com)!