

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 5th 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....

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!