2023 Synod Assembly Resolution #1

Sign Lutherans Restoring Creation Covenant to Care for Creation

Whereas, the Southwestern Washington Synod is committed to Creation Care as part of their mission statement; https://swwasynod.org/about/our-vision/; and

Whereas, the ELCA has committed itself to Creation Care in the Social Statement Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice, 1993 https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/EnvironmentSS.pdf; and

Whereas, the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly has "reaffirmed the commitment of this church to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of a 50% reduction of net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050." https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8172;

Be It Resolved, that the Southwestern Washington Synod Bishop and the Vice-President shall sign and implement the Covenant to Care for Creation provided by Lutherans Restoring Creation https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Fillable_Template_Synod-Covenant-with-Creation.pdf or a covenant with similar commitments as steps on the way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and care for creation in all aspects of their ministry.

Be it further resolved, that the congregations of the Southwestern Washington Synod shall be encouraged to sign and implement the covenant for congregations to care for creation provided by Lutherans Restoring Creation https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Congregational-Covenant-2021.pdf or a covenant with similar commitments as steps on the way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and care for creation in all aspects of their ministry.

Submitted by: Rev. Kristin-Luana Baumann, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles; St Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma; Rev. Louise Buckles, Ocean Park Lutheran Church, Ocean Park; Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor, Rev. Bridget Jones, Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn.

Resolutions Committee recommends: Do Pass

Synod Covenant with God's Creation

As the _____ Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America committed to care for creation, we **affirm** God's creation in all its glory and beauty. We **acknowledge** God as the source of all things. We acknowledge Christ as the redeemer of all things. We acknowledge the Spirit as the sustainer of all things. As a result, we strive to respect all of life as sacred. We **accept** our vocation as Earth-keepers who care for creation. We accept our responsibility to live justly in relation to our fellow human beings in ways that all creatures may mutually thrive together.

Worship: We seek to worship throughout the year so that we express our gratitude and praise to God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer. We are committed to glorify God intentionally together with all creation. In worship, we will celebrate creation, confess our sins against creation, grieve the losses of creation, and commit ourselves to care for Earth.

Education: We seek to learn about the biblical, theological, and ecclesial traditions concerning creation, including the biblical mandate from God for us to care for Earth. We also seek to learn about the present degradations of creation due to human activity, how these degradations are related to human exploitation and oppression, how we as religious people are implicated in these matters, and what we as Christians can do to heal and restore creation for future generations.

Building and Grounds: We agree to assess the impact that our facilities and events may have upon creation—in such matters as energy and water use, cleaning products, lawn care, paper use, food choices, recycling and waste, and transportation. We will strive to make choices that lessen our negative impact on Earth and that serve to renew and restore Earth community.

Discipleship as Home and Work: We encourage ourselves as individual members of congregations, rostered leaders and staff—at whatever age, economic level, ethnic group, or walk of life—to care for creation in our personal lifestyle, in our homes, and at our work—knowing that our habits and practices can contribute significantly to care for creation. We seek to foster a closer relationship with nature so that we can live simply and walk lightly upon Earth.

Public Ministry: We seek to change the systems that foster the degradation of creation and to rectify the injustices that result from it. And we seek to alert our members to environmental legislation that protects creation and to encourage their active participation in the development of public policy. We encourage members to engage in civic activities that foster ecological health.

Because we desire to leave Earth a better place for our children, we will promote love and respect for creation among our youth, teach them responsible Earth practices, and engage them in projects that restore creation. We will pursue this mission in a grace-filled manner, seeking to find hope and joy in the commitments and sacrifices these provisions may entail and in the restorations they engender. We seek to let our care for creation be known to others.

Synod Bishop: _____ Date: _____

Liaison to Communicate with Lutherans Restoring Creation: _____

Phone/Email:_____

Send this completed form to: info@LutheransRestoringCreation.org

For support with all these affirmations explore: www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org

Congregational Care-for-Creation Covenant

As a congregation committed to care for creation, we **affirm** God's creation in all its glory and beauty. We **acknowledge** God as the source of all things. We acknowledge Christ as the redeemer of all things. We acknowledge the Spirit as the sustainer of all things. As a result, we strive to respect all of life as sacred. We **accept** our vocation as Earth-keepers who care for creation. We accept our responsibility to live justly in relation to our fellow human beings in ways that all creatures may mutually thrive together.

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Building and Grounds: We agree to assess the impact that our activities and the use and maintenance of our property may have upon creation—in such matters as energy and water use, cleaning products, lawn care, paper use, food choices, recycling and waste, and transportation. We will strive to make choices that lessen our negative impact on Earth and that serve to renew and restore Earth community.

Discipleship as Home and Work: We encourage ourselves as individual members of this congregation—at whatever age, economic level, ethnic group, or walk of life—to care for creation in our personal lifestyle, in our homes, and at our work—knowing that our habits and practices can contribute significantly to care for creation. We seek to foster a closer relationship with nature so that we can live simply and walk lightly upon Earth.

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Church Name/Synod _____ Liaison to LRC: _____

Phone/Email:_____

Signatures of Council Members: Date: _____

Send this completed form to:
info@LutheransRestoringCreation.org

For more information and a free kit visit www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org