What can your church do... and why?

The following is a suggested guide to begin (or rejuvenate) your community’s Creation Care work as an integral part of your existing church life via a casual gathering (about 2 hours after church or over lunch*). This is not meant to be depleting or to create any more meetings! Look for the life-giving opportunities to integrate an environmental justice ethos in your typical activities.

**Step 1:** Prepare the space. Key concepts of hosting a World Café session (video here) involve being flexible to the needs of your space and group – just try to create a space that is welcoming to all and feels more like a place to connect and less of a space to be lectured at.

Helpful tools: rolls of craft paper or newsprint to have instead of tablecloths and a lot of fun writing/drawing instruments, something to do with your hands (play-dough/clay/building bricks), beverages and easy-to-hold snacks, big sheets of paper to have main ideas to collect once it’s time to “harvest” the sessions’ highlights.

**Step 2:** Watch **FACT: The Earth is Good (2 minutes) together**

If sharing videos doesn’t work in your space, print the transcript (here) and read aloud. You may choose to do this outside, as long as all can be heard.

Invite all to: Consider the call to root ourselves in the “gifts we need most of all”:

Faith, Hope & Love.

**Step 3:** Introduce the intent of conversation using the World Café Method (full graphic guide here for your reference). Explain that everyone will be moving around every 10-20 minutes (depending on size of the group) to 5 different tables/stations to consider a variety of ideas. Ask all to be aware of making space to hear from each person at the table. Doodling, drawing, note-taking, etc. are all acceptable ways of contributing to the generation of ideas!

Each table will focus on a different facet of church life to explore the following question:

How can your church be rooted in the gifts of Faith + Hope + Love to integrate the ethos of Caring for God’s Good Creation into this facet of church life? Think of specific actions/initiatives you already take - celebrate them and challenge yourself to determine your most faithful next step.

- Worship/Music
- Buildings/Grounds/Facilities
- Christian Education (Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Adult Bible Study)
- Public Witness/Advocacy (Social Justice Ministry)
- Personal Discipleship (devotionals, personal stewardship)

*If you don’t believe your group will have many ideas to discuss immediately, be ready with some print-outs of examples, stories, +/-or resources from each facet > each is listed on the top bar of the LRC homepage: www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org*

**Step 4:** Make sure your Actions Speak Loudly! (survey here) and immediately share ideas and celebrations! As part of your wrap-up for the day be sure to check off what you are up to and hit “submit” and know that your church is part of a larger team across the nation!

* If you only have an hour or less together, this may feel more like speed-dating, so perhaps just ask the question as you all go through the Actions Speak Loudly! survey. If you have all day together, add some of the stories/videos from the LRC YouTube playlists and spend longer thinking out a timeline for your specific ideas.