

## St Andrew's Lutheran Church—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, Christ as the redeemer of all things, and the Spirit as the sustainer of all things. We accept our vocation as Earth-keepers who care for creation and our responsibility to live justly in relation to our fellow human beings in ways that all creatures may mutually thrive together.

We affirm our ongoing participation in the EcoFaith Network of the NE MN Synod. We give thanks for the earthkeeping movement among ELCA congregations across the country expressed in Lutherans Restoring Creation.

**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. 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.

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.

**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 at 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.

**Public Ministry:** We seek to let our care for creation be known to others. 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.

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.

Signatures of Church Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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As a means of reminding us of your life, death and resurrection in the midst of our everyday lives. , we **dedicate this compost bin.**

As a means of engaging members of the congregatgion of all ages in mindfulness of your command to care for, provide for and protect all of you creation , we **dedicate this compost bin.**

In thanks to you, Lord, for guidance and wisdom in this project and in our lives, we **dedicate this compost bin.**

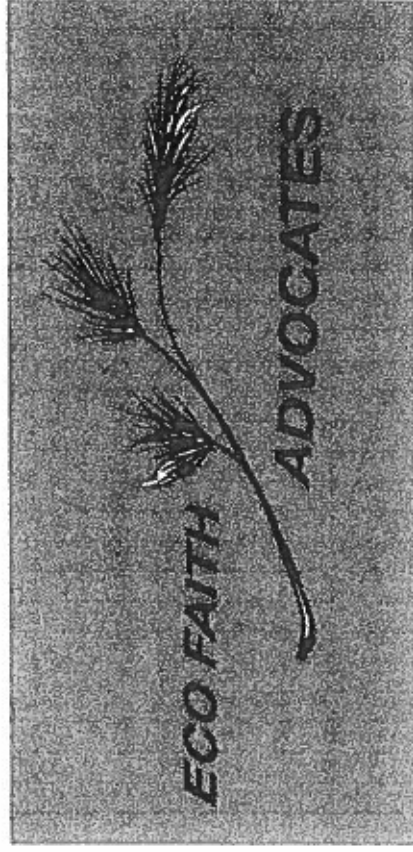
#### CUTTING OF THE RIBBON

#### CLOSING PRAYER



#### BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
Grand Rapids MN

Dedication of the Compost Bin

May 18, 2021  
2:00 PM

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*By a member of the Eco faith Advocates Team*

### WHAT IS ECO FAITH ADVOCATES?

*By a member of the Eco faith Advocates Team*

### THE GENESIS OF A COMPOST BIN – Why here?

*Why now?*

*By a member of the Eco faith Advocates Team*

## LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

For your good creation and for the food that nourishes us,  
**We give you thanks O Lord**

For this time of Spring, for warmer weather, for the  
prospect of new life of flowers, grass, tress and gardens.  
**We give you thanks O Lord**

For the cycle of life, death and resurrection, for  
ourselves, and for plants that live and give life and  
nutrients and nutrition, then die and decay, turning into  
rich compost from which new life springs again. **We give  
you thanks O Lord**

For the vision of the Eco Faith Advocates team here at  
St. Andrew's, and their work to make care of creation  
and stewardship of creation an integral part of all  
ministries, **We give you thanks O Lord**

For the willingness and openness of this congregation to  
embrace the practice of composting that which may have

otherwise been thrown away **We give you thanks O  
Lord**

For the lumber which came of course from trees, which  
was used to build the compost bin, and for Chuck  
Stenson for building it n **We give you thanks O Lord**

For the air, sun, moisture, and microbes that help the  
compost process complete the cycle to return these gifts  
to earth to once again enrich the soil and provide for new  
life to once again spring forth **We give you thanks O  
Lord**

We pray al lthis in Jesus' name – the One who lived,  
died, and rose again to new life, **Amen**

## DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION

*By Chuck Stenson*

## A THEOLOGY OF COMPOSTING

*By Pastor Dave*

## DEDICATION

As a means for caring for creation, we **dedicate this  
compost bin.**

As a means for us to return food scraps, leaves, and  
grasses to the earth to continue the life, death and new  
life again cycle of creation

As a means of reducing needless waste, we **dedicate this  
compost bin.**