



ECOFAITH NETWORK NEWS

Summer 2019 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Summer 2019 newsletter of the EcoFaith Network of the NE Minnesota Synod/ELCA

What is the EcoFaith Network? The EcoFaith Network is a growing network of ELCA Lutheran congregations and their members in northeastern Minnesota with a mission to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation. Through social media, seminars, resources on current environmental justice issues, project micro-grants and active inter-and intra- congregational conversations, the EcoFaith Network encourages grassroots creation care actions among the Synod's 133 congregations and leadership within their communities.

Now Available—EcoFaith Network on the Synod Website. [Click Here](#)

Learn more about the EcoFaith Network, grant resources available for congregational and community creation care initiatives, tips on starting a Green Team at your church, and many other resources.

A Letter From Rev. Kristin Foster, Co-Chair, EcoFaith Network

Dear friends in care of the earth:

Worship and education. These two are fundamental to the life and mission of the body of Christ. More and more we are waking up to God's vital call to conversion as stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation. How can we hear this call in worship and educate our members with the knowledge to live this call?

I'd like to present two opportunities for integrating earth stewardship in the areas of worship and education, with documents attached. And neither of these opportunities add new events to your already packed calendar!

- A **Season of Creation** for a 4-6 week period of Sunday worship in the fall or summer
- **Green Tips** for regular publication in the worship bulletin or other channels ([see resource pages for EcoFaith Network on the Synod website](#))

First, about Green Tips.

One of the simplest ways to empower and inspire our congregations as stewards of the earth is to publish regular Green Tips. Green Tips contain practical information about a wide range of topics. They are researched, written, and compiled for congregational use in any of a variety of ways: In the weekly Sunday bulletin, as part of a weekly congregational email, in a monthly

newsletter, on the congregation's Facebook page, and at meetings of Creation Care Teams and other church committees for discussion and action items.

Lutheran Church of the Cross (LCC), Nisswa, has been publishing weekly Green Tips for a number of years. Newcomers to LCC have been inspired to join the church in part because of Green Tips. If they are omitted from the Sunday bulletin, someone complains! We thank Laura Raedeke, on staff at Lutheran Church of the Cross, and member of the EcoFaith Network Leadership Team, for researching and writing these Green Tips, and making them available to the whole EcoFaith Network.

Attached in PDF format you will find 8 Green Tips intended for weekly use starting now through August or September. Please share them with your congregation and others! Another set will be published in early September and the Network is working to post a list of past published Green Tips on the EcoFaith pages of the Synod website. You can also find these tips published weekly on the EcoFaith Network Facebook page.

Second, about planning a Season of Creation:

The Season of Creation is a four to six week season of the church year, with its own three year cycle of readings. It is the only liturgical season which focuses primarily on the Triune God's ongoing work of creation and reconciliation with creation. While it can be inserted anywhere in the long green season of the church, it is most commonly celebrated in September, and ends with the St. Frances Blessing of the Animals in October. Several congregations in our synod celebrate and have celebrated the Season of Creation as an annual liturgical season, and they have found it to significantly enhance their worship. [Click here for availability](#)- see PDF resources.

This year's Season of Creation, if planned for the Fall, could follow the Wisdom theme with texts from Luke, and would include these Sundays: 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, and 10/6 (St. Frances Commemoration)

The NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network provides resources for congregations planning a Season of Creation. We are attaching two primary documents, "Season of Creation Introduction" (which contains the classical three year cycle) and "Season of Creation Three Year Lectionary" (from Gloria Dei, Duluth, includes prayers of the day and suggested hymns for each Sunday, as well as a few lectionary adaptations).

For questions about starting a Season of Creation in your congregation, contact one of these ELCA pastors in or associated with NE MN Synod with experience in celebrating this season. Each of them would welcome a conversation with you or your worship team!

- Rev. Karen Bockelman kgbockelman@gmail.com
- Rev. David Carlson pastor@gloriadeiduluth.org
- Rev. Kristin Foster revkristinfoster@gmail.com
- Rev. Krehl Stringer lightstringer2@gmail.com

For more resources to engage your congregation in nurturing earth stewardship, go to <http://www.nemnsynod.org/eco-faith.html> or find us on [Facebook](#). Email us at

ecofaith@nemnsynod.org for a listing of members of the Leadership Team in each conference who are wanting to support you and your congregation.

And bless you for your part in a growing network of congregations and their members, worshipping the God of the whole creation and inspired to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation!

Rev. Kristin Foster on behalf of the [Leadership Team of the Northeastern Synod EcoFaith Network.](#)

Resources from 2019 EcoFaith Summit Now Available

On March 30 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd, over 100 participants from 28 congregations and representatives for the other Minnesota Synods came together for the annual EcoFaith Summit sponsored by the NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network Leadership Team. The theme for the day was "Creation, Church, and YOU: Earthkeeping Practically Speaking". The day not only provided inspiration to congregations actively engaged in Creation Care or wanting to become engaged, it also provided many practical tools. Now you are able to access most of the information from the Summit on the Synod's website! Even if you didn't attend the Summit you will find resources listed that will enhance Creation Care activities in your congregation in five main areas: Worship, Education, Buildings and Grounds, Congregational Life, and Community Outreach. [Click her for Summit materials.](#)

Concerned About Plastics Taking Over Our World?

[Click here](#) for a great resources from National Geographic "Plant or Plastic". It provides articles, solutions, and tips for living plastic free and challenges you can pose to your congregation. Learn 10 shocking facts about plastics, what happens to the plastic we throw out, a brief history of how plastic straws took over the world, and more.

Climate Change: Do You Know the Basics?

It's a subject we cannot avoid and you are only going to hear more about it as the world continues to feel the heat. Learn the basics and take a quiz on the best ways to curb climate change. [Click here.](#)

"Like" the EcoFaith Network Facebook Page—[click here](#)

As individuals or from your congregational Facebook page, "like" the EcoFaith Network Facebook page to get weekly Green Tips for Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters; learn about upcoming Creation Care events; and read interesting and current stories of environmental news.

How is Your Congregation Caring for God's Creation?

The EcoFaith Network would like to hear about your creation care initiatives and events. We will share the stories as a model for other congregations and opportunity for networking. Do you have an event you want publicized? Send stories, photos, event notices to ecofaith@nemnsynod.org.

Outdoor Trivia (see answers below)

1. What state forest in the Arrowhead Region is named for a European County?
2. What Minnesota city and county were named after the Ojibwe word for wild rice?
3. Dorothy Louise Molter, who lived in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in 1986, was in part known for selling what beverage to passing canoeists?

If you wish to be removed from this distribution list, please send a request to ecofaith@nemnsyod.org.

Answers to Outdoor Trivia: 1) Finland State Forest 2) Mahnomen 3) Root Beer