

# Be a GREEN LEADER



A communiqué from the NWPAsynod  
Committee on Leadership Support

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*...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*

## **1 Corinthians 8:6**

All of creation is God's and we are given the gift of serving as stewards to God's beautiful world. Life gets busy and the intentional care of creation begins to feel like *one more thing* to do, *one more thing* to research, *one more thing* to form a committee around and we get overwhelmed.

We, the NWPAsynod Committee on Leadership Support, hope to provide an easy beginning for your own ponderings on care of creation through this resource. Our hope is to inspire congregational leaders, both lay and rostered, to take just one step a month toward more intentional care for creation. We applaud you if you've already gotten a good start on this in your own homes, lives and congregations and encourage you to share your ideas with the synod!

## **Our vision for the year long experience...**

It can be intimidating to start something new and often even more challenging to change something that is "the way it's always been done", so why not take it in steps? This resource, the *Be a Green Leader* communiqué, will be formatted into six themes that fall under "Creation Care", divided into two month increments.

In the first month, we encourage the pastor and/or leaders, such as the congregational council, to commit to trying at least one of the ideas listed.

In the second month, find a creative way to share the experience with the whole congregation and encourage them to try on one new practice for size in that second month.

## **The *Be a Green Leader* emphasis begins...**

We begin our journey together in July-August 2011 with a Bible study for personal reflection and action written by Pastor Jim Steingass. In July, take time to read and study on your own. In August, branch out to include your household family and/or your family of faith -- your congregation -- as you study, reflect, and act together.

## **More thoughts and ideas to come...**

Watch your email inbox or USPS mailbox for Issue #2 to come to you in September-October 2011 with a focus on food & harvest, written by Pastor Kelly Nelson.

If you have thoughts to share, good news to celebrate, or new ideas to implement, simply send a note to Pastor Sandra Jones at the synod office (sjones@nwpaelca.org) and we'll include your entries in future issues of this resource.

## July/August Bible Study

*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.      **Genesis 1:31a***

Read Genesis 1:1 – 2:15

1) As you read the passage, take time to notice the details of God's creation. What details of God's creation can you see from where you sit?

2) The creation is completed in six days, plus a day of rest. Why, do you suppose, didn't God complete the whole creation in an instant?

3) In other creation stories, i.e. the creation story of the Babylonians, the gods create the earth through a feud among the gods, or as a mistake, and human beings are created to be slaves of the gods. How does this creation story compare with those? What does the creation story suggest about God's attitude toward creation and human beings?

4) What are the gifts and responsibilities given to human beings by God in this creation? Which of those gifts and responsibilities are held in common with other parts of creation? Which are unique to human beings?

5) If you were to draw the creation story from Genesis 1, what shape would it be? Straight line? Circle? Triangle? Where do humans fit into that drawing? What difference does that shape and humans place in it make for how you see the creation?

6) In Genesis 1:26, God says, "let [human beings] have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air" etc.

Walter Brueggeman writes: ... a Christian understanding of dominion must be discerned in the way of Jesus of Nazareth (cf. Mark 10:43-44). The one who rules is the one who serves. Lordship means



servanthood. It is the task of the shepherd not to control but to lay down his life for the sheep (John 10:11). The human person is ordained over the remainder of creation but for its profit, wellbeing, and enhancement. The role of the human person is to see to it that the creation becomes fully the creation willed by God.

- Brueggeman,

*Interpretation: Genesis*, John Knox Press, Atlanta, 1982 p. 32-33

How does this writing inform the "dominion" of humankind? In what ways have humans fulfilled this dominion? In what ways have humans fallen short?

7) Take time to hold God's creation (including you) in prayer.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*