

2023 Summit Booklet

Program, Presenters, Partners, and Plotting Resources



Reception to Follow



God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
God chose what is low and despised in the world,
things that are not,
to reduce to nothing things that are,
so that no one might boast in the presence of God,
who is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
who became for us the wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:26-30a

Theme of the Summit



In a moment of deep ecological crisis, this year's EcoFaith Summit calls us to become part of the Holy Spirit's subversive plot to pollinate an alternative way of being human for the sake of life.

In this plot, we find our model and hope from pollinator species. These tiny, apparently powerless, often overlooked and disregarded creatures, whose drastic decline endangers so much we depend upon, are a key to the regeneration of life itself.

As participants in this great plot, faith communities of every size and place can be demonstration plots, pollinating alternative ways of living. We all steward plots of land, even tiny ones, which can become pollinator habitat.

In this critical and decisive time, a 'Kairos' moment, what we do with our specific plots wherever we are, matters. How we live the Gospel paradox that God's power is shown in weakness can engage us in active hope amid the growing crisis we face.

Through worship, keynote presentation, diverse storytellers, conversations, and engagement sessions, together we will be empowered to be participants in this unfolding plot.

Purpose of this Summit



- ⊕ To share the urgency and hope of this decisive, Kairos moment of ecological crisis.
- ⊕ To be equipped for bold action in demonstrating faithful stewardship of the earth.
- ⊕ To engage our congregations and communities in supporting pollinator habitat.
- ⊕ To cross+pollinate relationships and collective responses in the Upper Midwest.

Special Acknowledgements

This Summit is the fruit of the collaboration between the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and the Saint Paul Care of Creation Work Group which began in 2020. This collaboration also supports the publication of the Green Blades Rising Monthly Newsletter, and the new [ecofaithnetwork.org](https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org) website.

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org>

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/subscribe>

We are deeply appreciative that the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin with its Creation Care Team has joined in planning and presenting this year's Summit.



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2023 EcoFaith Summit

The Pollinator Plot

Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis

Saturday, April 15, 9:30 – 3:30p.m.
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth and On-Line

The Shape of the Day

- 9:30a.m. Welcome and sign-in or log on
Coffee and continental breakfast ~ Visit table exhibits
- 10:00a.m. Opening and Land Acknowledgement
- 10:15a.m. Keynote presentation: Margot Monson, Entomologist and Beekeeper
Plotting for Pollinators
Responding to Creation's Cry for Justice
- 11:10a.m. Story Pollinators
Rumbidzai Masawi
Johanna Bernu
Heidi Ferris
Ella Stewart and Violet Forster
John Skoug
- Noon Lunch / Visit table exhibits/ Hosted zoom lunch conversation
- Afternoon Engagement Sessions
Plotting for Life in a Time of Ecological Crisis
1:00-1:45; 2:00-2:45p.m. in-person and on-line
- 3:00p.m. Sending Worship
- 3:30p.m. Reception and networking



2023 EcoFaith Summit

The Pollinator Plot

Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis

Keynote Speaker

Margot Monson

Entomologist and Beekeeper

Plotting for Pollinators

Answering Creation's Cry for Justice

Storytellers

Rumbidzi Masawi

Program Director of Health Equity Northland and Lead Gardener at St. Mark Giving Garden

Abundance Delight

Johanna Bernu

High school sophomore, national Science Fair, descendant of the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Old Medicines, Ecologically Sustainable Alternatives

A High School Student's Goal of Pollinating Change within the Healthcare System

Heidi Ferris

Founder of Growing Green Hearts LLC, educator, community connector, author of 6 books for children

Growing Green Hearts

Faith, Science & Youth Leadership

Ella Stewart and Violet Forster

Student leaders of Helping Hives, University of Minnesota-Duluth

Helping Hives

Connecting Campus & Community

John Skoug

Small scale farmer, Osseo, Wisconsin, Biopharmaceutical consultant, Congregation president

Small Farm, Big Dream and the Quest for Sustainability



2023 EcoFaith Summit

The Pollinator Plot

Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis

Engagement Sessions

Plotting for life in a time of ecological crisis

1:00-1:45p.m. and 2:00-2:45p.m.

In-person and Zoom

In person at Gloria Dei

Church as Demonstration Plot - 1:00-1:45p.m.

Your congregation as a model for practices that serve the whole community of creation by integrating creation care into all aspects of our lives and ministry

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Dave Carlson and Rev. Dr. Dennis Ormseth

Panelists:

- Russ Schultz, Bethlehem, Brainerd, Creation Care Team
- Rev. Emily Meyer (The Ministry Lab)
- Kris Grangaard, St. Paul Care of Creation
- Rev. Dr. Melinda Quivik, St. Paul Care of Creation
-

Pollinating Public Action - 1:00-1:45p.m.

Real models of community action and advocacy for the interdependent web of life

Facilitator: Rev. Karen Behling

Panelists:

- Jack Hurbanis – Minneapolis Area Synod EcoFaith Network
- Anthony “Tone” Lanzillo – Duluth Loaves and Fishes
- Rev. Greg Garmer, NE MN Synod, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
- Bret Pence, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
- Tammy Walhof – Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota

Planting the Pollinator Plot - 2:00-2:45p.m.

Practical guidance on how your congregation can establish pollinator habitat, at church, at home and in the neighborhood

Facilitator: Jan Bilden

Panelists:

- Tom Uecker (Duluth Monarch Buddies, Chair of the Pollinator Project/ NE MN EcoFaith)
- Rev. Mark Ditmanson (Pastor, Beekeeper, Pollinator Gardener)
- Marta Behling Roser (Rain gardens, pollinator gardener)
- Bruce Garbisch, Trinity, Cook, synod pollinator project steering committee
- Robert Jenko, Our Saviors -West Duluth, pollinator project

Cross+Pollinating Relationships - 2:00-2:45p.m.

Strategies for creation care collaboration among people of all ages and demographics within and among churches, communities, and synods

Facilitator: Rev. Kristin Foster

Panelists:

- Rev. Sara Bishop - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin staff
- Dr. Diane Jacobson - Professor emerita, Luther Seminary
- Rev. Emily Meyer – The Ministry Lab
- Dr. Munjed Murad, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities eco-justice
- Bret Pence – Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, Greater Minnesota Director

On-line over Zoom

Planting the Pollinator Plot - 1:00p.m.

Practical guidance on how your congregation can establish pollinator habitat, at church, at home and in the neighborhood

Facilitators: Jan Bilden with Don Schuld

Panelists:

- Tom Uecker, Duluth Monarch Buddies
- Rev. Mark Ditmanson, beekeeper and pollinator habitat
- Marta Behling Roser, rain garden consulting
- Laurie Schneider, Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Storytelling for Care of Creation and Eco-justice across Differences - 2:00p.m.

How digital and in-person storytelling can foster understanding across polarized communities

Facilitator: Don Schuld

Presenter: Professor Mary Hess, Luther Seminary

<https://meh.religioused.org/web/creationstories/>



THE PLOT THICKENS

Post-Summit Party and Reflection

THURSDAY

APRIL 20

Zoom, 7pm CT

The Zoom link will be sent to all registrants following the Summit

2024 EcoFaith Summit

Date, Location and Theme to be Announced

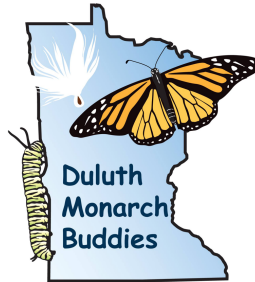
This Summit Is Presented By



In Partnership With



**Lutheran Advocacy -
Minnesota**



UNITED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE TWIN CITIES



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.





The EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod

*Living out God's call to be
stewards of the earth for the
sake of the whole creation*



Website: ecofaithnetwork.org

Email: ecofaith@nemnsynod.org

Facebook: EcoFaith Network NE Minnesota Synod

To subscribe to Green Blades Rising Newsletter: <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/subscribe>



All congregations and communities are called into the Spirit's grassroots movement to heal, restore, and renew God's beloved earth creation in this decisive, Kairos time. As we are learning, this movement arises from the paradoxical power of the Gospel. Through listening, storytelling, music and the arts, the sharing of voices and concern, we empower one other to demonstrate an alternative way of being human for the sake of life.

The EcoFaith Network of the NE MN Synod, led by a **leadership team** of 20-some people, nurtures this movement in diverse ways, including the annual **EcoFaith Summit**, which we began in 2016 and now are co-presenting with the St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, the **Green Blades Rising Newsletter**, begun in 2020 and now co-sponsored with the Saint Paul Area Synod Care of Creation, **seasonal Creation Care Connections events** offering practical ideas and mutual support in integrating creation care into congregational identity, the new **ecofaithnetwork.org** website (also in partnership with St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation), an emerging synodwide **pollinator project** just piloted last summer (see separate report), **micro-grants** and micro-grant accompaniment to help fund new earth stewardship initiatives, **annual leadership retreats**, begun in 2011 and now including our companions from other regional synods, the **Green Blades Preaching Roundtable**, weekly reflections on the ecological implications of the lectionary from a variety of preaching writers, periodic **synod resolutions** to heighten our synod's clarity and commitment to creation care and eco-justice; and **collaborative partnerships**, especially with other nearby synods, in which cross-pollination of relationships and actions is taking place.

The EcoFaith Network is mostly funded by contributions from individuals and from congregations who choose to become **EcoFaith Network Partner Congregations**, and also by partner support for specific events, such as the EcoFaith Summit.

Co-Chairs Pastor David Carlson
pastor@gloriadeiduluth.org 218-722-338
Pastor Kristin Foster
revkristinfoster@gmail.com | 218-290-4694

EcoFaith Communication Coordinator Rachel
ecofaith@nemnsynod.org



**St. Paul Area Synod
Care of Creation
Workgroup**
(established in 2018)



Our Mission -- We are called to care for God's creation as an integral part of our Christian faith and identity. The Care of Creation work group is dedicated to embrace this calling. We are a group which explores life-giving ideas: where best practices within our synod and the larger church and community can be shared, where action and advocacy are encouraged, and where we become part of the public and teaching voice of the Church.

Our Continual Focus – We strive to be an inspiration and creation care resource for the 110 congregations in the St Paul Area Synod. Through online communications to our list-serve, Tool Kit presentations, phone calls, personal contacts, church inservice and *Green Blades Rising Newsletter* subscriptions (<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/subscribe>), we strive to keep our congregations up to date on God's call to care for creation and the many ways this is possible. In keeping with the ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement, we encourage our members and congregations to continue to advocate for environmental justice and protection.

Our Recent Emphasis -- For the past several years, our workgroup has been particularly enthused by the positive climate impact of regenerative agriculture. We have expanded our knowledge base through participation in webinars, podcast listening, guest speakers and most important, direct conversation and onsite visits with farmers. We shared some of what we have learned at the 2022 EcoFaith Summit.

Our workgroup supports the ELCA Social Statement: “The ELCA holds to the biblical idea that God calls God's people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government (Jeremiah 29:7, Romans 13:1-7).28. Our members advocate for legislation that supports socially just creation care and encourages our congregations to do likewise.

Check out the many resources on our website and the newly created joint website:
<https://www.spas-elca.org/resources/for-congregations/care-of-creation/>
<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org>



Care of Creation Team for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin



The Care of Creation Team for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin works to inspire, educate, and support one another, as we share wisdom and engage in the important work of caring for creation through the choices we make in our daily lives. With the passage of a resolution at our 2021 Synod Assembly, urging Green Teams in all congregations within our synod, our mission has become more sharply focused upon equipping the people and congregations within the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to keep taking new steps toward greener, more sustainable life together.

The Care of Creation Team meets via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2-3 p.m. These meetings are open to all who are interested in joining the conversation and efforts. To receive this zoom link, contact the Care of Creation Team Leader, Karen Behling at karenraskbehling@gmail.com

This is the first year for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to be involved in planning and presenting this EcoFaith Summit. Representing the synod on the summit planning team has been Karen Behling, Pastor in Chippewa Falls, and Greg Kaufmann, Synod Staff. Additionally, from this synod, Pastor Sara Villareal Bishop has been involved on the Summit Worship Planning Team, and Magge Ericson has prepared a Wisconsin resource table. Five rostered ministers from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin have also joined the ranks of those who write for the Green Blades Preaching Roundtable.



2023 EcoFaith Summit

The Pollinator Plot

Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis

Meet our Partners

Luther Seminary

Minneapolis Area Synod EcoFaith Network

The Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

Lutherans Restoring Creation

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

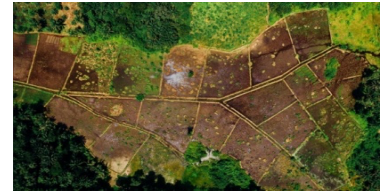
The Ministry Lab

Together Here Ministries

Duluth Monarch Buddies



We are thankful to be partners for the 2023 EcoFaith Summit.



We also are thankful for God’s pollinating work in God’s entire creation and at Luther Seminary. The word seminary comes from a Latin word that meant, “plot where plants are raised from seeds for transplantation.” We are thankful to participate in the Spirit’s work of forming “Christian public leaders” for God’s transplanting into God’s mission fields. For more information go to <https://www.luthersem.edu/>. We are also excited about our developing work in what is called Faith+Lead which seeks to cross-pollinate God’s mission to care for God’s creation and Church.

faith+lead
LUTHER SEMINARY

At Faith+Lead, we understand that many people are spiritually hungry yet disconnected. We connect and educate learners and leaders to know the difference Jesus makes and equip them for God’s calling in their lives and communities...
... Our ecosystem of resources, brought to you by Luther Seminary, meets people where they are with courses, coaching, learning communities, digital resources, and consulting...

Core Practices

What is the core work that helps people experience the difference Jesus makes in everyday life?

+**Connect with God.** Develop a Christ-centered identity, embodied in a life of discipleship and nourished through spiritual formation.

+**Tell the Story.** Invite neighbors into Jesus’ way of life and love in ways they can recognize.

+**Cultivate Community.** Listen deeply, name God’s presence, and form relationships across all dimensions of diversity—both in and out of the church.

+**Practice Justice.** Be hosted by neighbors and join in acts of compassion, justice, and reconciliation as a witness of Jesus’ love—particularly in places of suffering and despair.

+**Shift Ministry Models.** Experiment with new forms of ministry, community, and fundraising to be nimble and responsive in a changing culture.

Resources - Explore our new website to find our blog, podcasts, courses, learning communities, live learning webinars, coaching and consulting and more. <https://www.faithlead.org/>
<https://www.luthersem.edu>



Pollinator Friendly Alliance
WWW.POLLINATORFRIENDLY.ORG

Mission: *We protect pollinators to conserve the environment.* **For more about Pollinator Friendly Alliance, please see our webpage:** <https://pollinatorfriendly.org/>

Pollinator Friendly Alliance is a grassroots non-profit conservation organization and stands as a Minnesota leader in pollinator conservation. Volunteer-driven and based in the St. Croix River Valley, we:

- Expand habitat and biodiversity.
- Reduce pesticide pollution.
- Advocate for pollinator protections.
- Share knowledge.

PFA is unique in its ability to unite with community, partner with public and private entities, and gather and excite volunteers to create pollinator habitat. To date, PFA has restored over 200 acres to natural protected habitats in Minnesota. PFA has a history of engaging the public in immersive field studies on pollinator conservation through citizen science programs. PFA is an educational leader with their annual "Best Practices for Pollinators" summit. This inspiring three-day summit brings together scientists, educators, public and private presenters and practitioners, and local to federal agencies to inspire best practices for ecologically sound tactics and a healthy environment. "Best Practices for Pollinators" has grown into an internationally streamed event and since 2016, over 3,000 people have attended. PFA advocates for pollinator protections in local communities and statewide. This year PFA is leading two initiatives; 1) to protect public state-managed lands from pesticide contamination so state parks, state forests and wildlife management areas can be the wildlife sanctuaries they are meant to be, AND 2) create a statewide roadside wildflower habitat program along Minnesota state highways to support birds and pollinators called HIGHWAYS for HABITAT.

Our Vision:

We envision a world that values the environment and lives in harmony with pollinators.

Our Values:

- We live in harmony with nature.
- We work to reduce pesticide pollution.
- We work to restore a healthy planet and biodiversity.
- We believe in a deep respect for nature and its creatures.
- We believe in a food system that promotes soil health, farm biodiversity, and nutrient dense food – all while benefiting the farmers who grow it.

Join The Hive!

Become a volunteer, partner, or donor.

[Sign up for email updates on initiatives, projects, and programs here](#)



EcoFaith Network

Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

The Minneapolis Area Synod EcoFaith Network seeks to bring congregations together as we build awareness and work towards building a more sustainable, just, and equitable community. As a network, we join together to take action for a new vision of God’s creation.

Find us online: mpls-synod.org/outreach/mas-organizing-team/ecofaith-network

Reach out to Congregational Organizer for Environmental Justice Jack Hurbanis (jhurbanis@mpls-synod.org) to learn more about our campaigns, get connected, or just say hello!

Current Organizing Campaigns

Rural Electric Co-ops

To put it simply, it matters where our energy comes from. Is the energy source sustainable? Does it exacerbate climate change and cause harm to ourselves and our neighbors? Who has access to renewable options, and who is currently left out?



Electric Co-ops are a unique avenue for people to directly engage in shaping a community’s energy choices. As people of faith, we are called to engage these cooperatively run utilities, challenging board members and other leaders to greater and more equitable investment in renewable energy. Specifically, EcoFaith is engaging Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) in the south metro area of the synod.

Inclusive Financing

The high cost of home energy efficiency improvements is one of the inequities built into our energy system. This is why we have been advocating to bring Inclusive Financing to Minnesota.

Inclusive Financing is a program designed to allow anyone living in an inefficient home including renters, undocumented folks, and those with no access to capital, to make energy saving changes.

Our Inclusive Financing organizing has brought us to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Minneapolis City Hall, and into congregations where we continue to hear the need to make climate solutions more accessible.





Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Our Mission is to nurture safe and healthy spaces for the ministry of the Gospel to unfold and shape an abundant future for all in Northwestern Minnesota.

FAITHFUL in relationships. AUTHENTIC in our welcome. LOVE that makes a difference.

Our synod's *Creation Care Affinity Group Leaders and Inter-synodical Liaisons* are:

Pastor Krehl Stringer (lightstringer2@gmail.com)

Pastor Daphne Urban
(pastor.daphne.urban@gmail.com)

For more information, see <https://www.nwmnsynod.org>



Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

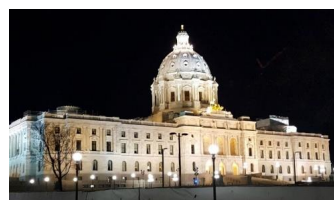
In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we advocate for wise and just public policies to overcome hunger and poverty, and steward God's creation!

WHO WE ARE

Lutheran Advocacy-MN (LA-MN) and its citizen advocates work for justice in the areas of hunger, poverty, and care of God's creation. LA-MN is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the six Minnesota ELCA Synods. We seek to live into the ELCA vision to "Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love for all that God has created."

WHY WE DO IT

To advocate is to plead the cause of those suffering injustice. Advocacy ministry is rooted in Scripture, Lutheran theology, and our baptismal calling to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. It is expressed by advocating with and for our neighbors in need, for the sake of the common good, in places where important decisions are being made.



HOW WE DO IT

We work with and through synods, congregations, campus ministries, church members, and others to create and use networks for advocacy. Lutheran citizen advocates write personal emails or letters, make calls, and meet with their state legislators (or members of Congress) to impact decisions. Lutheran Advocacy-MN is non-partisan, and participates in coalitions to enhance advocacy effectiveness and build political will to address important issues in God's world.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED – OUR INVITATION TO YOU!

- 1) **Join our Email & Action Network:** Email tammy@lutheranadvocacymn.org with a) your name, b) your email address, & c) your address (so we know your legislative district); OR go to www.lutheranadvocacymn.org to sign up online.
- 2) **Take Action Now by Contacting Your State Legislators with the following message:**
 - State Senator:** Please work to ensure that the Next Generation Climate Act (SF 2188) is included in the Senate Energy & Climate Omnibus bill.
 - State House Representative:** Work to ensure that the Next Generation Climate Act remains in the House Energy & Climate Omnibus bill, and that it stays in the final bill through negotiations with the Senate.
 - Talking Points:** a) The Next Generation Climate Act will update our state's greenhouse gas emissions targets to align with the best current climate science; b) Recent data shows that Minnesota's electricity sector is cutting emissions, but other parts of the economy are showing increases in carbon, methane, and other harmful pollution; c) God calls us to take care of the earth, not destroy it; d) (Say something about yourself – Who you are, Your congregation or where you are from, Why you care about decreasing harmful emissions).
- 3) **Pray for Your Legislators & Legislative Decisions:** Pray for wise decisions, decreasing polarization, good relationships with their colleague legislators, & stamina for long days through these last 5 weeks of session.
- 4) **Donate to Lutheran Advocacy-MN:** Send a check to our office or donate on our website so that we can have Hunger Advocacy Fellows or paid interns every year, rather than every few years.

Lutheran Advocacy – Minnesota

105 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55103 / www.LutheranAdvocacyMN.org
Tammy Walhof, Director / tammy@lutheranadvocacymn.org / 651-238-6506 (text or voice)



United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

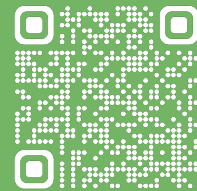


INTEGRATING MINISTRY AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities' **MA in Eco-Justice** program will provide you with focused academic training in theological and ethical disciplines with a focus on environmental ethics, ecological justice, and eco-theology.

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to learn more and apply!



UNITEDSEMINARY.EDU | 651-255-6119 | ADMISSIONS@UNITEDSEMINARY.EDU



We invite you to join us as we

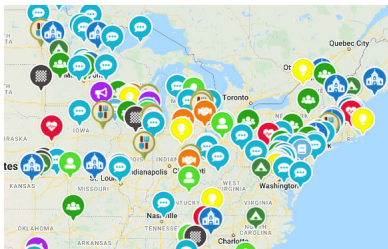
Inspire

Register for our upcoming online creation-focused worship service for Earth Day (4/22) or integrate components into *any* of your future services!

<https://bit.ly/2023LRCEarthDay>



Connect



Make sure your ***Actions Speak Loudly!***

Add your achievements and goals to our growing garden of Good Green News:

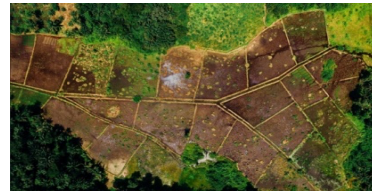
<https://bit.ly/LRCActionPlan>

Include

Welcome Creation Care in whatever way makes sense in your context, especially for Earth Day celebrations. Consider your choices and let us know what works for your community: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/5-ways-to-celebrate-earth-day-as-a-church/>

*Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. This is accomplished by cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all.*

www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org



Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light works in partnership with communities of faith, conscience, and spiritual practice at the intersection of climate justice and racial justice.

Together, we build transformative *power* and bring the *lights* of people's unique gifts to the urgency of the climate crisis.

Since our founding in 2004, we have grown the multifaith climate movement in Minnesota and across the United States. We've done this by empowering communities to take action that is authentic, effective, and energizing in their context. This allows communities to move forward in their work for the planet in ways that nourish the community itself, as well as grow the climate movement as a whole.

WHAT WE DO:

As a multifaith movement, we co-create a just and sustainable world through practical action, systemic change, and spiritual grounding. We do more than focus on a particular issue. Instead, we organize and use our collective power to build a healthy, livable, and thriving world for all!

Our programs and campaigns include:

- powerful multifaith gatherings and community development programs;
- leadership opportunities for youth, with an intentional focus on youth from Black, Brown, Native, POC, and Indigenous communities;
- community programming focused on creating a renewable economy grounded in racial justice and shared prosperity;
- policy initiatives through grassroots, community-based organizing efforts focused on real, foundational change.

Learn more by visiting mnipl.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

QUESTIONS? Contact Bret Pence, Northern Minnesota Director, at bretpence@mnipl.org or 218-242-2527



Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry



VLM Mission Statement

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry provides opportunities for Christ-centered spiritual growth, leadership development, and outreach in God's great northwoods.

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry invites you to experience an exceptional community at two unique sites! Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion offer traditional summer camp experiences, programmed day or weekend events, and comfortable spaces for your next retreat or family/friend gathering. Looking for more adventure? We also offer guided trips into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. We provide the ideal combination of place and program for Christian community and personal renewal. We look forward to seeing you in God's great northwoods!

Since the late 1950s, the Christ-centered programs of Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion have welcomed people from all over. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, VLM shares God's abundant grace with all people.

When the two camps merged to form Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry in 1990, it strengthened the churches and communities of Northeast Minnesota by providing one mission at two wonderfully different places for Outdoor Ministry. Over the decades, both camps have developed deep roots in the local communities and have become centers of hospitality. Today the sites, now owned by more than 80 congregations, offer time and space where kids can explore faith in the outdoors and where all people are welcomed as a neighbor.

Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion are situated on some of the best lakeshore in the country. VLM seeks to educate ourselves and our community in an effort to sustain these lands. We are called to be caretakers of Creation and know that we are part of the continued work by the Anishinaabe people, the families who invited others to the camps in the early days, and the churches that support them now. VLM is actively researching both the celebrated and the tortured history of these lands and peoples with hopes of better understanding our shared history and in an effort to move forward together.

For more information, see <https://www.vlmcamps.org>



Supporting Vibrant Ministry for Our Changing World



The Ministry Lab is a resource hub that curates and creates materials relevant to all areas of ministry for congregational leaders. We offer member-only and public services.

Executive Director: Rev. Emily Meyer

<p>We are able to curate state-wide resources for MN and reach a global online presence thanks to our generous Member Sponsors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minnesota UMC ● Minnesota UCC ● Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area ● Synod of Lakes and Prairies ● United Theological Seminary <p>Subscription members are welcome!</p>	<p>Become a member and enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Free hard copy Library access ● Unlimited Consulting ● Free/reduced-rate Spiritual Tools: labyrinth, singing bowl, custom webinars, and Midweek Contemplative Retreats ● Fresh & Free Resources like this, our first-ever Commentary Conversation featuring MNIPL’s Buff Grace reflecting on Earth Day RCL texts.
<p>Our Weekly Blog, Six New Things highlights new book releases, education, training, webinars, contemplation, and community opportunities (like climate advocacy and justice work!).</p>	<p>Lib Guides like this for Creation Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Books for All Ages / Curriculum ● Video & Multimedia <p>Find climate action partners in our Climate & Sustainability lib guide!</p>
<p>“Our Watersheds” Project: Interconnection and Water Protection resource packet is in its infancy. Interested in cross-pollinating on this project? Let us know!</p>	<p>Great Ideas like Bless the Earth and 22 Ways Kids Can Save the Planet. There’s a new one (almost/at least!) every week.</p>

Most of our resources are free and accessible online! Become a supporter >>>



The Ministry Lab | 767 Eustis St. N Ste 140 | St. Paul, MN 55114
 Ph. 651.279.1677 | Email: ministrylab@unitedseminary.edu | [Facebook](#) | theministrylab.org

FIFTH ANNUAL DULUTH MONARCH FESTIVAL



Saturday - June 3, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Coppertop Church
230 E. Skyline Parkway

\$5 Adults Children Under 12 Free

10:30-11:30 Keynote Speaker: Emily Stone
"Ecology of Overwintering Monarchs in Mexico"

Naturalist/Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum. Author of two books and a weekly "Natural Connections" column in more than a dozen regional newspapers.

12:00-12:45 "Be a citizen scientist...yes, you can!"
1:00-2:00 Monarch Movie



Festival Sponsor

For more details, go to the
Duluth Monarch Buddies Facebook page.

duluthmonarchbuddies@gmail.com

Visit our new website:

duluthmonarchbuddies.org

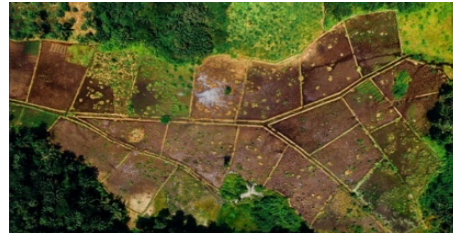


Movie • Eggs-caterpillars-butterflies • Kids' activities

Milkweed & native pollinator plants for sale • Vendors • Food

Together Here Ministries

Juntos Aqui Ministerios



Together Here Ministries creates space for transformational change through listening, learning, and relationship building among diverse peoples and communities. Formed in response to NEMN Synod's commitment to the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery, THM expanded its ministry in 2019 to include the implementation of the **ELCA's Strategy for Authentic Diversity**.

Together Here is composed of two ministry teams, the **Bridge Building Task Force** and the **Anti-Racism Team**. Through the Bridge Building Task Force, Together Here partners with Northeastern Minnesota Synod as they live into their commitment to repudiate the **Doctrine of Discovery**, repent of the evils of colonialism and build relationships with Native American communities.



Using the ELCA's Strategy for Authentic Diversity, the Anti-Racism Team positions Together Here to work within the Northeastern Minnesota Synod to review institutional structures, identifying areas that require systemic change in order to eliminate systems and practices that prevent us from living and working together well in diverse spaces.

Members of Together Here represent diverse social, cultural, and spiritual backgrounds. They provide resources, training events, and serve as a conduit for a variety of groups and organizations who are committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging through increasing cultural competency, addressing structural and social injustice, and working to build relationship bridges with the goal of creating communities that welcome diverse worldviews. ***Together Here*** collaborated with EcoFaith Network and the St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group in the recently completed workshop series, ***Called to Arise: Standing at the Intersection of Racism, Inequality, and the Environment***. Together Here is grateful to partner with the EcoFaith Network in this year's EcoFaith Summit, offering assistance with the Zoom platform and providing honoraria to speakers so that experts from Black and Indigenous communities who shared their stories were justly compensated for their work.

Our invitation to you!

To learn more about Together Here Ministries or to explore partnerships, reach out at togetherherenemnsynod@gmail.com, visit www.nemnsynod.org/together-here, and/or follow us on Facebook.



2023 EcoFaith Summit

Keynote Speaker and Storytellers

Keynote Speaker

Margot Monson

Entomologist and Beekeeper

Plotting for Pollinators

Answering Creation's Cry for Justice

Storytellers

Rumbidzi Masawi

Program Director of Health Equity Northland and Lead Gardener at St. Mark Giving Garden

Abundance Delight

Johanna Bernu

High school sophomore, national Science Fair, descendant of the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Old Medicines, Ecologically Sustainable Alternatives

A High School Student's Goal of Pollinating Change within the Healthcare System

Heidi Ferris

Founder of Growing Green Hearts LLC, educator, community connector, author of 6 books for children

Growing Green Hearts

Faith, Science & Youth Leadership

Ella Stewart and Violet Forster

Student leaders of Helping Hives, University of Minnesota-Duluth

Helping Hives

Connecting Campus & Community

John Skoug

Small scale farmer, Osseo, Wisconsin, Biopharmaceutical consultant, Congregation president

Small Farm, Big Dream and the Quest for Sustainability



**Margot
Monson,
Keynoter**

*Entomologist
and Beekeeper*



Plotting for Pollinators: Responding to Creation’s Cry for Justice

My passion for insects began as a child, and the more I learned, the greater the fascination. My parents encouraged this in allowing me to collect various animals, keep them in jars and cages, nourish, and watch them grow.

I decided to follow my heart and earned an Masters of Science in Entomology from the University of Minnesota. My graduate work involved studying the aquatic insects that are bioindicators of water quality, which meant working many hours in streams and rivers, often on property owned by organic farm families. I consider myself most fortunate to have developed lifelong friendships with these true stewards of our environment.

Fifteen years ago, I began taking classes in beekeeping. That challenge led to studying native plants and the insects with which they evolved. Soon I began focusing on native bees and other terrestrial pollinators, and their roles in sustaining ecological integrity.

I devoted my garden to native perennials and the pollinators that soon arrived. Far too many insects are not well understood for their absolutely critical roles in sustaining life on his planet, and the photographs I’ve taken from my yard in St Paul and No MN reveal the truly wondrous diversity of life all around us.

My fascination with insects remains strong and their adaptations and resiliency continue to amaze me. However, the challenges to environmental sustainability caused by our decisions as humans has created serious losses in honeybee colonies as well as declines in many native insect, plant, and bird populations. Now more than ever, we absolutely must work to protect and conserve all that we possibly can of this amazing gift with which we have been entrusted, Creation.



Rumbidzai Masawi, Storyteller

Sustainable Development Professional
Lead Gardener, St. Mark's Giving Garden

Abundance Delight



Rumbidzai Masawi is a Sustainable Development Professional. Currently she is Program Director of Health Equity Northland and Lead Gardener at St. Mark Giving Garden. Rumbidzai serves as Board Member for the University of Minnesota Extension Northeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships as well as the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Work Group. She is also a Co-Facilitator for the Institute of Environment's Undergraduate Leadership Program at UMN - Twin Cities Campus

The St. Mark Giving Garden & Food Access Project is an exciting health, food justice, community connection, racial equity, empowerment garden project in the Duluth Hillside Neighborhood.

Video created by a Giving Garden Youth:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EH2yW5VfjhEfN8ZjENCGIHga1vh38MOB/view?usp=sharing>

If you'd like to get our news or be involved as a volunteer, partner, or funder, contact Sarah Nelson (Sarah@silvercliff.net) or Regina Laroche (reginalaroche@hotmail.com)



Johanna Bernu, Storyteller

Old Medicines, Ecologically Sustainable Alternatives A High School Student's Goal of Pollinating Change within the Healthcare System



Johanna Bernu is a sophomore at Cloquet Senior High School located in Cloquet, Minnesota. She is a descendant of the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and lives in the reservation community. She is deeply committed to cultural reclamation and language revitalization. Johanna can see the value in using Indigenous and western worldviews in a way that benefits all in society when working to solve problems. She is committed to showing how human health and our environment can benefit from Indigenous medicinal practices working in partnership with western medicine. Johanna has been participating in Science Fair for four years, winning all manner of awards, and further developing her research project each year. She plans to pursue ethnopharmacology as a career after graduation.

Johanna plans to talk about how we can go back to old medicines to provide ecologically sustainable alternatives to today's chemical disinfectants. Essentially how we can pollinate change within the healthcare system.



Heidi Ferris, Storyteller

Growing Green Hearts: Faith, Science & Youth Leadership



Heidi Ferris founded Growing Green Hearts, LLC in 2011 to help people of all ages to play, to learn, and to love nature. As community connector, she designs and implements innovative community projects with libraries, cities, faith groups, watershed districts, schools, and counties.

With her playful spirit and teaching expertise, communities are boosting their science literacy while experiencing on-site solutions for: climate change, local nutrition, clean water, childhood health, biodiverse habitat, land acknowledgement and creation care.

Heidi leads trainings, courses and advocacy in enviroSTEM. She is author of six books for children including *8 Questions for Butterfly Gardening* and *4 S's for Noticing Nature*. With 22+ years of teaching, Ms. Ferris has led preschoolers to higher ed students from Minnesota to Hawaii in gaining knowledge then moving to environmental action. She has guided over 30 faith communities in her series *Connect-the-Drops: Faith, Science & Youth Leadership*. Ms. Ferris taught classroom science for 12 years and holds a Master of Arts in Natural Science and Education.

Heidi was a Faith+Lead Fellowship recipient with Luther Seminary in 2022 and is currently a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership with 2023 research on lifting up diverse voices and meanings people make from native prairie planting projects. She serves on the board of Minnesota Association of Environmental Educators (MAEE). Heidi can be found on the water in all seasons with husband, daughters and friends in a kayak, sailboat or Nordic skiing.



Ella Stewart and Violet Forster, Storytellers

Students, University of Minnesota-Duluth

Helping Hives: Connecting Campus & Community

Our names are Violet Forster and Ella Stewart, and we are students at the University of Minnesota Duluth. We both study Environment, Sustainability, and Geography. Violet also studies Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Ella studies Political Science.

Our interest was sparked at the UMD Land Lab in learning about native plants and beekeeping. Last year, Violet and I started a student organization called Helping Hives. Our goal was to bring a community of students together to focus on the importance of pollinators and learn about beekeeping. Our first ever on-campus apiary is planned to be up and running this spring!



**John Skoug, Storyteller
Agro-forestor,
biopharmaceutical consultant**

Small Farm, Big Dream and the Quest for Sustainability



John Skoug enjoyed a more than 30-year career as a scientist in the pharmaceutical industry with expertise in new drug product development. Since retiring from AbbVie in 2019, he consults part-time for small biopharmaceutical companies to help them advance novel drug candidates toward clinical development.

John and his wife Connie retired to an 85-acre farm near Osseo, WI where they practice their version of sustainable agro-forestry, which includes an array of fruit and vegetable gardens, removing invasive trees and re-planting acres of pine, oak and walnut trees, and planting our “back yard” with 1.5 acre in pollinator habitat.

I’ll describe our journey towards sustainable living, and the enormous inspiration we derive from God’s Call to us to Care for Creation. As the latest scientific reports have made clear, now is the time for action as individuals and through collective advocacy so that our legacy to our family and future generations is one of hope for a livable world.



Tabling Organizations

Duluth Monarch Buddies and Wild Ones

Helping Hives – University of Minnesota-Duluth

Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota

Lutherans Restoring Creation

Luther Seminary

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Care of Creation and its regional network

The Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod

Northwestern Minnesota Synod ~ Creation Care Affinity Group

The Ministry Lab

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

Resources for the Pollinator Plot



NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network 2022 Pollinator Pilot Project

Plotting Resources

The Green Blades Preaching Roundtable

*Congregational Care-for-Creation Covenant
Synod Assembly Resolution*

*Reminder of the new Ecofaith website and
Green Blades Rising Monthly Newsletter*

We are Pollinators



NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network 2022 Pollinator Pilot Project

Becoming a Pollinator Synod



A photo from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pine City, planting their pollinator plot summer 2022

In the escalating ecological and climate crisis, we often feel powerless, even as we grieve for what is and can be lost. God, however, does not call us to resignation. For the people of Christ, this is not despair time. It is Kairos time, and God is waking us up for faithful action together.

Last spring, 2022, the EcoFaith Network’s leadership team asked these questions: *What is something that every congregation in our synod could do, no matter the size of our membership, our budget, or the land where our church is located? Something which may seem insignificant on our own, but together can powerfully serve the regeneration of life?*

Our imaginations turned to pollinators. These tiny, apparently powerless, often overlooked and disregarded creatures, whose drastic decline endangers so much upon which we depend, are a key to the regeneration of life itself. We all steward plots of land, even as small as pots of dirt, which are or can become pollinator habitat and Monarch Way Stations ~ not only our church grounds, but also our homes and our neighborhoods.

We dreamed. What if congregations all over Northeastern Minnesota advocated and planted and advocated for pollinators? Together, we could make a difference! Our churches could be models for their neighborhoods! We would be experimental demonstration plots for God's holy desire to heal and restore the web of creation!

The EcoFaith leadership team decided to embark on a Pollinator Plot Project. Over the summer of 2022, a steering committee mentored six congregations over the summer of 2022 in their first year of planting for pollinators. Four other congregations were inspired to start as well. Together with congregations who have already been gardening for pollinators and Monarchs, there are now 19 pollinator congregations in our synod!

The national network, *Lutherans Restoring Creation*, also got wind of what we are doing, and asked us to be the presenters at a monthly Creation Connections Call. Many of these congregations are participating in the EcoFaith Summit, *The Pollinator Plot: Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis*.

This year we are inviting all congregations to become part of a synodwide pollinator project. We will provide support from the pollinator project steering committee, the mutual encouragement of other congregations, and through our new EcoFaith website, ecofaithnetwork.org.

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod's EcoFaith Network is also bringing a resolution to the synod in assembly to become a Pollinator Synod, "embracing a vision for regional regeneration of pollinator habitat", and "walking together as the synod to live into our call as pollinators of the gospel in our witness to God's love in Jesus Christ for all creation, sharing practices across our synod and beyond". We would be the first Pollinator Synod in the ELCA, but maybe not the last.

In this critical and decisive time, a Kairos moment, what we do with our specific plots, wherever we are, matters. How we live as demonstration plots of the Gospel paradox that God's power is shown in weakness matters too. We are pollinators, offering active hope, in our communities, our synod, and in the upper Midwest.

For more information, contact ecofaith@nemnsynod.org or Tom Uecker at tomuecker1946@gmail.com



2023 EcoFaith Summit

The Pollinator Plot

Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis

Plotting Resources

Public advocacy and Action for Pollinators

Pollinate Minnesota

<https://www.pollinatemn.org/advocacy-work>

Pollinate Minnesota is a new organization, working toward a better Minnesota for pollinators and people. They advocate for critical policies, provide resources to communities making the pollinator friendly transition, and puts more K12 students from around Minnesota in beekeeping suits in our classes.

Pollinator Friendly Alliance

<https://www.pollinatorfriendly.org/about-us>

For pollinators in local communities and beyond. PFA's credibility as the visionary, organizer and liaison-broker among other committed stewards generates action-oriented partnerships.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/practices/pollinator/index.html>

Here is some of what they offer.

- [Lawns to Legumes Program](#) (residential landscape focused pollinator program)
- [Habitat Friendly Solar Program](#) (recognizes habitat as part of grounded-mounted solar projects)
- [Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot](#) (HELP) (strategic habitat on conservation lands and natural areas for pollinators and a wide range of beneficial insects)

Living Landscapes Initiative Resources



- [Seed Mix Webpage](#) (Includes 70 state seed mixes and fact sheets)
- [Pollinator Toolbox](#) (Guidance for pollinator projects)
- [What's Working Website](#) (Successful conservation projects summarized by conservation professionals)
- [BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#)
- [Featured Plant Articles](#) (Native plants important for conservation efforts)
- [Technical Guidance Documents](#) (Upland and wetland restoration strategies)
- [Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide](#) (Comprehensive wetland restoration guidance)
- [Climate Resiliency Toolbox](#) (Strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation)
- [Buffer Establishment and Enhancement Toolbox](#) (Buffer restoration planning)
- [Lawns to Legumes Program](#)
- [FAQs \(pdf\)](#)
- [BWSR Pollinator Plan \(pdf\)](#)
- [Protecting Minnesota's Pollinators Brochure \(pdf\)](#)
- [Protecting Conservation Plantings from Pesticides \(pdf\)](#)

City of Saint Paul Pollinator Protection Initiative

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/habitat-management/pollinator-protection>

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/natural-resources-and-urban-ecology-education-0>

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/blooming-saint-paul>

Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP)

<https://www.mepartnership.org/about/minnesotas-environmental-community/>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/pollinators>

[Best Management Practices](#) that we can follow to protect, improve and create pollinator. Many useful resources, including how to encourage habitat in agricultural landscapes, yards and gardens and roadsides, also suggestions for [making your yard bee-friendly \(PDF\)](#), and protecting and supporting [protecting and supporting endangered and threatened insect pollinators \(PDF\)](#).

Pesticide Action Network of North America

<https://www.panna.org/take-action/our-campaigns>

At Pesticide Action Network (PAN) North America, we work to create a just, thriving food system. For too long, pesticide and biotech corporations have dictated how we grow food, placing the health and economic burdens of pesticide use on farmers, farmworkers and rural communities. PAN works with those on the frontlines to tackle the pesticide problem — and reclaim the future of food and farming. PAN North America is one of five regional centers worldwide. We link local and international consumer, labor, health, environment and agriculture groups into an international citizens' action network. Together, we challenge the global proliferation of pesticides, defend basic rights to health and environmental quality, and work to ensure the transition to a just and viable food system.

Beyond Pesticides

<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/>

This wide ranging education and action organization includes No Spray Spring and the School Pesticide Reform Coalition

<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/programs/children-and-schools/sprc/school-pesticide-reform-coalition>

Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Pollinator Protection

<https://www.hhh.umn.edu/news/pollinator-protection-program-keeps-conservation-equity-focus>

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

<https://www.mncenter.org/>

Uses law and science to protect Minnesota's environment, its natural resources, and the health of its people. One of its current issues foci is banning PFAS's, forever chemicals, which damage pollinators as well as humans and so many elements of the environment.

No Mow May/ Bee City USA

<https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>

Thinking globally and acting locally, Bee City USA provides a framework for communities to come together to conserve native pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat that is rich in a variety of native plants, provides nest sites, and is protected from pesticides.

From Tom Uecker

Monarchwatch.org has excellent resources for pollinator gardens. It is also the home to the Monarch Waystation program where you can get your garden certified as a Monarch Waystation.

Monarchs must have milkweed since it is the only plant upon which the female will lay eggs, and it is the only plant the caterpillars (larva) will eat. There are several types of milkweed that grow in our region: common milkweed, swamp milkweed (doesn't need a swamp), butterfly weed, showy milkweed, whorled milkweed, and poke milkweed.

Pollinator Protectos: Sierra Club Grassroots Network

<https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/teams/pollinator-protectors>

We are dedicated to fighting for pollinator health and against the toxins that harm bees, moths, butterflies and other essential creatures. A subteam of the Grassroot's Network's Food & Agriculture Team, we are a forum for sharing and learning about state and local tactics in education and action for pollinators, and participate in national strategy.

Lawns to Legumes: Your Yard can BEE the Change (bwsr.state.mn.us/121)

This program offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides, and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings.

Apply for assistance @ <https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/apply/>

County Soil and Water Conservation District (for your county) for conservation and resource management, and possibly seeds and plants

Xerces Society at xerces.org, with its Pollinator Conservation Resource Center. Detailed guides for habitat evaluation and preparation, plant lists, habitat management, pesticide protection and native seeds and plant suppliers.

Xerces Society-Pollinator Plants: Great Lakes

Region: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-great-lakes-region>

Xerces Society-Monarch Nectar Plants: Great Lakes: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/monarch-nectar-plants-great-lakes>

Xerces Society-Save the Stems: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/brochures/save-the-stems>

Butterfly Gardens: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/butterfly/index.html>

Xerces Society-Pollinator Plants: Great Lakes

Region: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-great-lakes-region>

Xerces Society-Monarch Nectar Plants: Great Lakes: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/monarch-nectar-plants-great-lakes>

Xerces Society-Save the Stems: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/brochures/save-the-stems>

Ask a Master Gardener: Finding Neonicotinoid-Free Plants: <https://northerngardener.org/finding-neonicotinoid-free-plants/>

Lawns to Legumes: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/121>

Apply for Lawns to Legumes Assistance: <https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/apply/>

Raingarden Resources:

Planting for Clean Water: <http://www.mnwcd.org/planting-for-clean-water>

All Things Raingardens:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5201a163e4b01f15d7f763c6/t/5f1062c2317f76495362b71c/1594909412956/All+Things+Raingardens_BCWD20_reduced.pdf

Landscaping with Native Plants:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html>

Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water

(bluethumb.org) provides educational resources and workshops

relating to native plants, raingardens, shoreline stabilization projects, and turf grass alternatives.

Minnesota Wildflowers Field Guide

(www.minnesotawildflowers.info) contains photos and extensive information about native and non-native plants that grow in Minnesota.

Recommended book: Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees & Butterflies by the Xerxes Society.

From Magge Ericson

Kids resources

1. How to build/plant a butterfly garden

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/article/-build-a-butterfly-garden>

2. Planting native gardens for kids

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/how-gardening-with-native-plants-can-teach-kids-eco-stewardship>

School Pesticide Reform Coalition

<https://www.beyondpesticides.org/programs/children-and-schools/sprc/school-pesticide-reform-coalition>

Wisconsin Pollinator Resources and Kids Resources

3. WISCONSIN NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES

This directory was compiled by the Natural Heritage Conservation Program, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Inclusion in this directory does not imply any endorsement or recommendation by the Wisconsin DNR. Revisions or additions to the directory should be sent: To NHC, WDNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 (Attn: Amy Staffen), phoned in at (608) 261-0747, or e-mailed to Amy.Staffen@Wisconsin.gov

<https://widnr.widen.net/s/rfsbfc22w6/nh0698>

4. Wisconsin Native Plants

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LANDSCAPING AND NATURAL COMMUNITY RESTORATION

Comprehensive directory listing plants for specific soils, climate, sun, shade.

<https://p.widenedn.net/tanvm9/NH0936>

5. Plant Native Plants to Help Nature: Great resource has from basic how to garden, how to plant specific gardens such as monarch gardens, plant directories, Wisconsin pollinators, ecosystem restoration,

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants.html>

May 18-20 is Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival, Northern Great Lakes Center.

To register contact:

<https://www.birdandnaturefest.com/>

Wisconsin Naturalist Program

Check the website for description of training program and where the trainings are in Wisconsin.

<https://erc.cals.wisc.edu/wimn/contact-us/>

Resource not listed in directories

M and M Greenhouse, Barnes, Wisconsin

Propagates, grows, and sells native plants, wildflowers, grasses, sedges, ferns, vines, shrubs and trees.

<https://mmgreenhouse.com/>

Pollinator Resources: Butterfly Gardens:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/butterfly/index.html>

Ask a Master Gardener: Finding Neonicotinoid-Free Plants:

<https://northerngardener.org/finding-neonicotinoid-free-plants/>

From Margot Monson, Keynote Presenter

For many years I have been involved in various organizations that offer education for living on and off the land by advocating for stewardship of our environment. I have been a member of a *Community Supported Agriculture Farm, Common Harvest* (commonharvestfarm@gmail.com), and *The Land Stewardship Project* info@landstewardshipproject.org (LSP) for 30 years.

There are other organizations that I have been involved with over the years which are such strong advocates for healthy ecosystems from *Wild Ones* (info@wildones.org), *Xerces Society* (xerces.org), *Audubon* (audubon.org), *Friends of the BWCA* (friends-bwca.org), *Water Legacy* (waterlegacy.org), *MN Center for Environmental Advocacy* (mncenter.org), *Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness* (neminnesotansforwilderness.org), *Minnesota Environmental Partnership*, (mepartnership.org) and others.

Several years ago, I met Laurie Schneider, founder of *Pollinator Friendly Alliance*, and became involved because of her strong educational programs and tireless work in habitat restoration in many places in MN., and am a member of the PFA Board.

For additional resources: In Minnesota, check out your county soil and water conservation district office. Many have resources on pollinator plantings, rainwater gardens and other local resources.



The Green Blades Preaching Roundtable

Creation soundings in the weekly lectionary

A gathering of weekly reflections from multiple voices of preaching people and other writers

Published monthly in the Green Blades Rising Newsletter
Distributed weekly to the Green Blades preaching community

The Green Blades Preaching Roundtable gathers multiple voices to reflect on the ecological echoes, intersections, and urgencies in preaching the weekly lectionary in this time of existential, ecological crisis.

The writers range from entering seminary students and first call pastors to retired pastors. They include ordained pastors and deacons, seminary professors, spiritual directors and creation advocacy leaders.

Some writers focus on one reading, usually the gospel. Others address each of the four readings. Some include liturgical and hymn suggestions. All of them listen for the living Word, in love with the whole creation, pleading, singing, beckoning, reckoning.

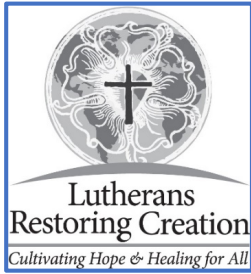
Within each Sunday lectionary lies the grain of God's living word spoken into this Kairos, crisis time of intersecting environmental, racial, and economic challenges. As we mutually attune ourselves to hear these ecological echoes and intersections, the Word-seed germinates, pollinating the Spirit's grassroots movement to tend and mend our relationships as part of the interdependent web of creation.

To subscribe to the Green Blades Rising Newsletter

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/subscribe>

To receive the reflections each week, or, to inquire about writing for the roundtable

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/preaching-roundtable>



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.

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 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.

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.

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

**Pollinator Synod
(from Synod EcoFaith Network)**

WHEREAS, “the earth is the LORD’S and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1) and God sends forth the Spirit to “renew the face of the ground” (Psalm 104:30); and

WHEREAS, the work of pollinators is essential to the integrity of the biosphere, the ecological wellbeing of all life across the world, particularly the sustainability of food production; and

WHEREAS, populations of pollinator species have been decreasing and are being threatened by climate change, diminishing habitat, and the use of pesticides and other chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod at the 2022 assembly launched a Pollinator Pilot Project in which six congregations were given seed kits to install pollinator friendly gardens on their church grounds with the purpose of inspiring more congregations in our synod to do the same; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod has nurtured relationships with and among these pollinator pilot project congregations and at least thirteen others through its ongoing virtual connection meetings in which ideas and support are shared for growing in creation care ministries and establishing pollinator gardens and Monarch Waystations; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod has this year planned and hosted an EcoFaith Summit, “The Pollinator Plot: Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis,” co-presented by three synod creation care groups across state lines (Northeastern MN Synod, Northwest Synod of WI, and St. Paul Area Synod) in which pollinator species – tiny, apparently powerless, often overlooked and disregarded creatures – were lifted up as a model and hope of the gospel paradox, of God’s regenerative power hidden in weakness; and

WHEREAS, the EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern MN Synod has cultivated “cross pollination” of creation care ministry ideas among and beyond our synod congregations through the website, Facebook page, annual EcoFaith summits, monthly e-newsletter Green Blades Rising, preaching roundtable, relationship building, and resource sharing; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern MN Synod declare itself a Pollinator Synod, that is, a synod embracing a vision for regional regeneration of pollinator habitat, in which, with the guidance and equipping of the earth-renewing Spirit, all its congregations and expressions:

- promote pollinator friendly habitats on their church grounds, at home, and in the neighborhood,
- work to eliminate the use of pesticides and other pollinator-harming chemicals on church grounds and encourage their members to do the same,
- consider themselves “demonstration plots” for earth-honoring experimentation in worship, education, congregational life, building and grounds, and community action; and be it further

Reminder of New Website and Green Blades Rising Monthly Newsletter



The collaboration which stands behind this Summit also supports two important resources:

The Green Blades Rising Monthly Newsletter:

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/subscribe>

and the New Ecofaith Website.

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org>

Thanks to all of those behind the scenes who plotted for this Summit Day



The Summit Planning Team

Rev. Kristin Foster, Chairperson	NE MN Synod EcoFaith Co-chair
Rev. Karen Behling	NW Synod of Wisconsin, Care of Creation
Jan Bilden	NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network leader
Rev. Dr. David Carlson	NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network co-chair
Rev. Greg Kaufmann	NW Synod of WI Care of Creation
Rev. Dr. Dennis Ormseth	St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group
Don Schuld	St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group

Vlogging and photography Rev. John Sippola

Morning refreshments Rev. John and Carlene Sippola

Afternoon reception Lake Superior Conference, NW Synod of Wisconsin
Paul Steklenski, Homemade Cider

Tech Team Greg Kaufmann, Tech Team Chair
Don Schuld, Zoom host
Olav Ormseth, Tech Team
Rev. James Muske, Zoom host assistant
Linda Kalweit, Videographer
Katie Christ, Sound System

Worship Team Rev. Sara S. V. Bishop, NW Synod of Wisconsin
Rev. Dr. David Carlson, NE MN Synod
Paul Jacobson, St. Paul Area Synod and NE MN Synod
Rev. Dr. Melinda Quivik, St. Paul Area Synod
Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart, NE MN Synod

Home stay coordinators Rev. Greg Kaufmann, Andrea Wynands, Carlene Sippola
and those who opened their homes in the Twin Ports

Lunches catered by Chef's Marketplace Catering, Cloquet, Minnesota

Custodial services Doug Maguire and Scott Ruzich

Summit Booklet Dr. Diane Jacobson and Pastor Kristin Foster

**And special thanks to the abundant hospitality of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
and to the many people who volunteered for set-up, welcoming, and serving!**



2023 EcoFaith Summit

Liturgies for Worship

Morning Worship

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & GATHERING HYMN

“God Is Here Today”

music ACS #993

LITANY (based on the Easter Proclamation)

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God’s throne!
Jesus Christ is risen! Jesus Christ is risen!

Celebrate with exultation; and sound the trumpet of salvation.

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king!

Christ has overcome! Glory fills you! The risen Savior shines upon you!

Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God’s people.

This is the season when you led your children out of slavery into freedom,

When Christ burst the chains of death, rising in triumph.

This is the season when night is as clear as day, putting wickedness to flight, washing sin away,
restoring joy to those who mourn, casting out hate, bringing peace, and humbling pride.

Receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving

for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

reflected in our faces, in our hearts, in the burning of candles – Christ is our light,

the brightness of which is not diminished even when its light is divided and borrowed.

For it is fed by the melting wax that the bees, your servants, have made to support it.

We therefore pray to you, O God, that the candles of our faith and our hearts, burning to the honor of your name, will vanquish the darkness and be mingled with the lights of heaven.

May Christ the Morning Star find us burning, that Morning Star who never sets, who rising from the grave faithfully sheds light on the whole creation.

Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

“The Word of God is Source and Seed”

ELW #506

1. The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to die and
 2. The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to heal and
 3. The Word of God is flesh and grace, who comes to sing and
 4. The Word of God is born on wings of bird and bee and

sprout and grow. So make your dark earth wel - come warm;
 wake and save. So let the spi - rit touch and mend
 laugh and cry. So dare to be as Je - sus was,
 but - ter - fly. The Lord of ev' - ry breath of life

root deep the grain God bent to sow.
 and rouse your dry bones from their grave.
 who came flight to live all and on earth and die.
 gives

Refrain

Gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no, gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no,
 (In the Lord let us re - joice, in the Lord let us re - joice,
 gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no.
 in the Lord let us re - joice.)

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; stanza 4: Paul Jacobson, b. 1947
 Music: David Hurd, b. 1950

*Note: stanza 4, written for this EcoFaith Summit, will be sung between each morning speaker.

Afternoon Worship

PRELUDE *Improvisation on "Holy Manna"*

GATHERING HYMN "Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom" ACS #1064

PRAYER (from *All Creation Sings*, p. 47)

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-13

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM 65:4-13

⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple.

⁵**Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.**

⁶You make firm the mountains | by your power;
you are girded a- | bout with might.

⁷**You still the roaring | of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.**

⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.

⁹**You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full of water.**

You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.

¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.

¹¹**You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.**

¹²May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.

¹³**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;
let them shout for | joy and sing.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "The Word of God is Source and Seed" v.1 ELW #506

The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to die and sprout and grow.

So make your dark earth welcome warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.

Gaudeamus Domino, gaudeamus Domino, gaudeamus Domino!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Seed That in Earth Is Dying”

ELW #330

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

response after each petition: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD’S PRAYER (New Zealand Anglican version)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptations and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all this is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.

SEED DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

“You Are the Seed”

WOV #753



1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night;
 2. You are the flame that will light - en the dark, so re - splen - dent with hope, faith and love;
 3. You are the life that will nur - ture the plant; you're the waves in a tur - bu - lent sea;

you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a bea - con to glow in the dark.
 you are the shep - herds to lead the whole world to wa - ters and pas - tures of peace.
 yes - ter - day's yeast is be - gin - ning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield.

You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear gold - en grain;
 "You are the friends that I chose for my - self, you're the word that I want to pro - claim.
 There is no place for a ci - ty to hide, there's no moun - tain can cov - er its might.

you are a sting and a soft, gen - tle touch, to wit - ness where - ev - er you go.
 You are the new reign of God built on rock, where jus - tice and truth are at home."
 Let your light shine so that your lov - ing works give hon - or and glo - ry to God.

Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim the great love of God;
 Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead Christ a - rose;

1. mes - sen - gers to tell the way of life, peace and par - don for all. till the end of the world."
 "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er - more,

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for creation. **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Leaders

Pianist – Bill Munson, Gloria Dei, Duluth MN
 Flutist – Paul Jacobson, St. Paul Area Synod
 Liturgist – Rev. Sara Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
 Liturgist – Rev. Dr. Ben Stewart, Emmanuel, Two Harbors MN
 Liturgist – Rev. Dr. Melinda Quivik, St. Paul Area Synod
 Preacher – Rev. Dr. David Carlson, Gloria Dei, Duluth MN
 Audio Tech – Katie Christ
 Video Tech – Linda Kalweit

Acknowledgments

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