

ecofaith SUMMIT 2024



CROSS ✦ CURRENTS IN THE FLOOD
Building Arcs Together for a Livable Planet

April 6, 2024

First Lutheran Church
Duluth, Minnesota

ECOFAITH SUMMIT 2024

PRESENTERS



ECOFAITH SUMMIT 2024

PARTNERS





"For the rest of my days, I will puzzle how it came to pass on our watch that the Holocene morphed into the Anthropocene and we left you a diminished planet. How is it that the order of creation's well-being as primary and human well-being as derivative was flipped? How is it that our imprint is now so deep and dangerous that we not only the ark but the flood?"

Larry Rasmussen

*The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When
Uncertainty's a Sure Thing,
Chapter 1, Epoch Times, p. 17*

"The destiny of the 21st century will be shaped by the possibility or collapse of a shareable world."

Toni Morrison (as quoted by Larry Rasmussen in *The Planet You Inherit*)

"Coming of age in a climate crisis is like learning to swim in a flood."

Talitha Amedea Aho

Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis

WELCOME

On behalf of the three Co-Presenter Synods and the twenty Summit Partners,
welcome to the EcoFaith Summit 2024, *Cross Currents in the Flood:*
Building Arcs Together for a Livable Planet!

Whether you are joining the Summit on-line or at First Lutheran in Duluth, you are here today because you know that the climate crisis is deepening and urgent. Life threatening. It is upon us like a flood, and we are caught up in its cross currents.
We are the flood.

How can we unite in the face of this flood? How can we listen more closely to the cries of creation and to the promises of God? How do we respond in life-sustaining ways?

We are the flood. And we are also the ark.

We are here to build and repair arcs ~ arcs of relationship ~ connecting generations, crossing boundaries, healing divisions, among people and with the whole community of creation. We are here to build arcs from problems to solutions, from fossil fuels to sustainable energy, from extractive economy to regenerative economy.

Today we will listen and learn from our keynote speaker, Christian environmental ethicist and author Larry Rasmussen, and from inspiring next generation respondents. We will sing and worship. And we will engage in arc-building actions and conversations, as together we conspire to embody God's vision for our life together.

Together today, we confront the reality of the climate crisis. Together, we listen for God's call through the cries of the world. Together, we conspire for life across generations. And together we will leave this day to equip our communities for building the arcs that become the ark we need.

Welcome!

In the cross currents



The EcoFaith Summit Planning Team

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Flood. Ark. Rainbow.

6: ¹² And God saw that the earth was corrupt,
for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth...

¹⁷ For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from
under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life;
everything that is on the earth shall die...

¹⁹ And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind
into the ark, to keep them alive with you;

7: ¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased...

²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild
animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings;

8: ¹ But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals
and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark.

³ and the waters gradually receded from the earth...

¹⁰ and (Noah) sent out the dove from the ark, ¹¹ and the dove came back to him in
the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf..

9: ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will
remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of
all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established
between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Genesis 6:12,17, 19; 7:17, 21; 8:1, 3, 10-11; 9:14-15, 17



Most of our children know the story of Noah's ark. We think of the ark as a delightful gift for kids --what with its friendly animals and congenial Noah and family.

But in truth this story is quite frightening. The waters of chaos become the instrument of God's destruction because of human misbehavior, our lack of care.

Nothing is more demonstrative of such misbehavior than our current disregard for our planet and all that God has made. We get a glimpse of the divine response in our current floods, in the current death of so many species and in the loss of land and homes.

And yet the biblical account of the flood is also a tale of promise. The rainbow stands as a sign to us and to God. God sees the rainbow, the sign of the covenant, and remembers the divine promise. Abundant, fruitful, and ongoing life is the will of God. The dove of peace with the olive branch in her beak joins the rainbow as God's signs that the chaotic waters will never again have the final say.

Perhaps we do not have it wrong after all when we give Noah's ark to our children. They, like us, will come to know the horrors of floods. But through their play they know something more real. They know that the picture of harmonious creation with animals walking two by two is a mark of promise.

THEME STATEMENT & GOALS

The year 2023 was the hottest year on record. The climate crisis is no longer a future we are trying to avert. This crisis is upon us like a flood. The flood is us. We feel caught up in its cross currents that threaten to sweep us away and pull us under. We are overwhelmed by myriad floods: literal floods and other disasters that threaten our existence, floods of information and misinformation, as well as debilitating floods of anxiety and hopelessness. At the same time, we are being carried forward on Spirit-led cross + currents toward new possibilities and new life. As in the waters of baptism, this journey involves both death and resurrection.

We are the Flood. We are also the Ark. We become the Ark by building arcs of relationship connecting generations, crossing boundaries, and healing divisions. We build arcs that lead us to Indigenous ways and wisdom. We repair the broken arc between us and the whole community of creation. We build arcs together from problems to solutions, from fossil fuels to sustainable energy, from extractive economy to regenerative economy. By acting together across these arcs, we look to the rainbow – the arc of promise. We discover – and demonstrate – signs of hope.

Throughout this journey, questions abound: How can we unite in the face of this flood? How can we listen more closely to the cries of creation and to the promises of God? How do we respond in life-sustaining ways? What other questions do we bring?

During the Summit, we will join forces to address our many questions. We will listen and learn from our keynote speaker, Larry Rasmussen and from inspiring young speakers. We will sing and worship. And we will engage our bodies in arc-building actions and conversations, as together we conspire to embody God's vision for our life together.

Goals

Confront the reality of the climate crisis.

Listen for God's call through the cries of the world.

Conspire for life across generations.

Equip communities for action.

SUMMIT

Schedule

8:30 - 9:30	Check-In & Exhibits
9:15 - 9:30	Prelude with Song Leader - Sara Thomsen
9:30 - 9:45	Welcome & Opening
9:45 - 10:30	Keynote: A Grander View of Life Amid Arcs, Ark, and Flood - Part I: Wailing the Right Question into the Swaddling Band of Darkness
10:30 - 10:45	Next Generation Respondents and Q&A
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:45	Keynote Part 2: Choiring the Proper Praise
11:45 - 12:00	Next Generation Respondents and Q&A
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch & Exhibits
1:00 - 1:15	Prelude with Song Leader - Sara Thomsen
1:15 - 2:00	Summit Worship
2:00 - 2:50	Arc Building Session 1 (4 Options)
3:00 - 3:50	Arc Building Session 2 (4 Options)
3:50 - 4:00	Sending (within each Arc Building Group)
4:00 - 5:00	Reception & Exhibits

Livestream Schedule

9:30 - 12:00	Morning Plenary
1:15 - 2:00	Summit Worship
2:00 - 2:50	Arc Building Session 1: Energy Transitions and the IRA
3:00 - 3:50	Arc Building Session 2: Building Arcs between Generations



Building Directory

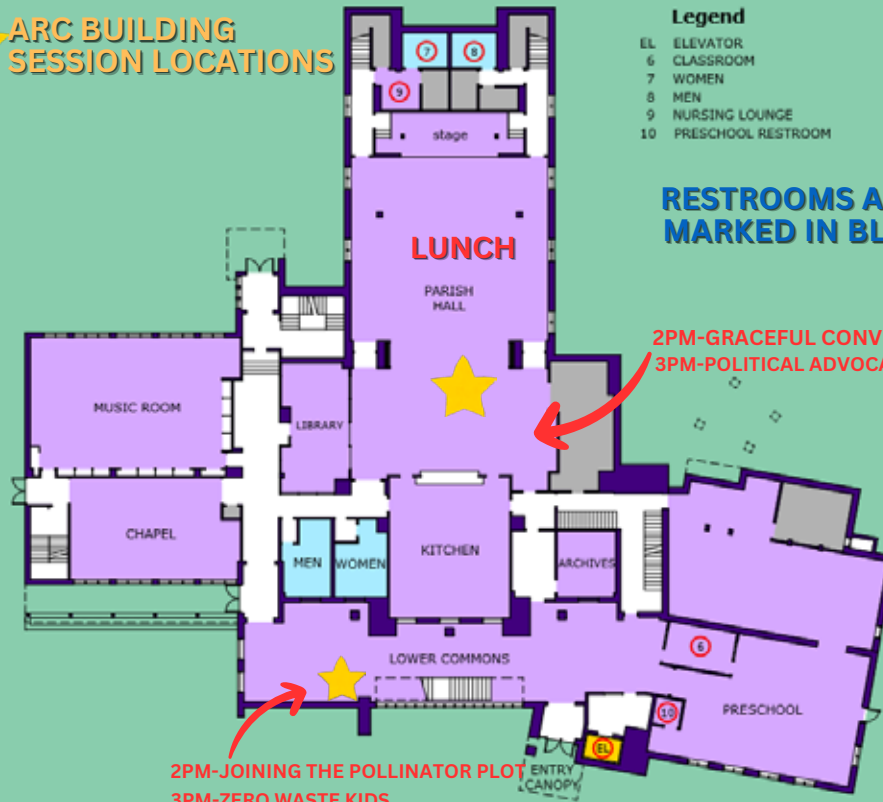
Building Directory

★ ARC BUILDING
SESSION LOCATIONS

Legend

- EL ELEVATOR
- 6 CLASSROOM
- 7 WOMEN
- 8 MEN
- 9 NURSING LOUNGE
- 10 PRESCHOOL RESTROOM

RESTROOMS ARE
MARKED IN BLUE



London Rd. Level

Legend

- EL ELEVATOR
- 6 CLASSROOM
- 13 KITCHEN
- 14 RESTROOM



Basement Level

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Larry R. Rasmussen



A Grandeur View of Life amid Arcs, Ark, and Flood

Part 1:

Wailing the Right Question into the Swaddling Band of Darkness

Part 2:

Choiring the Proper Praise

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Larry L. Rasmussen



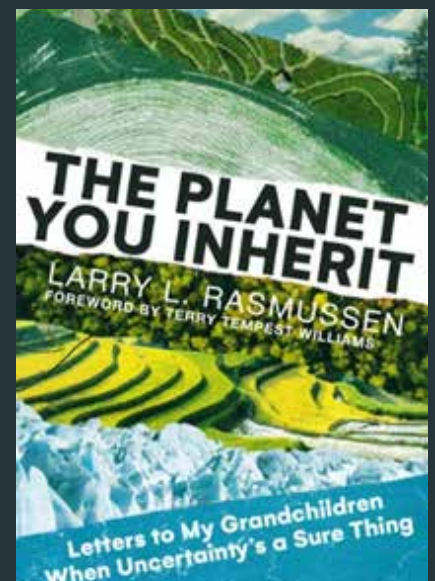
Larry L. Rasmussen is Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary, New York City. His most recent book, *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing* (Broadleaf Books, 2022), is the winner of the 2023 Nautilus Gold Prize for best 2022 book in Ecology and Environment. His book, *Earth-Honoring Faith: Religious Ethics in a New Key* (Oxford University Press, 2013), received the Nautilus Gold Prize for Ecology/Environment and also the Nautilus Grand Prize for best 2014 book overall (27 categories). An earlier volume, *Earth Community, Earth Ethics* (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1996), won the prestigious Grawemeyer Award.

He served as a member of the Science, Ethics, and Religion Advisory Committee of the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) and was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Union Theological Seminary, New York. From 1990-2000 he served as co-moderator of the World Council of Churches unit, Justice, Peace, Creation. In the Spring Semester 2018 he was guest professor at Union

Theological Seminary and Yale University Divinity School. In the summer session of 2019, he taught in Cambridge University, England. In 2021 he was granted the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Society of Christian Ethics.

He and Nyla live in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Website: <https://www.larrywrites.info/>



GIGI CALLAND

NEXT GENERATION
RESPONDER
& ARC BUILDER

Building Arcs Between Generations:

Conversation with the Keynote
Speaker and Next Generation
Respondents



Original artwork by Gigi

I'm Gigi Calland. I am twelve years old, and I am honored to participate in this event. I'm in the sixth grade and live here in Duluth. I find myself worrying more and more about the future, so I look forward to the feeling of hope that will come from seeing people come together to move toward a better future – for the next generations and for our beloved Earth.

CARSON VINCENT

NEXT GENERATION
RESPONDER
& ARC BUILDER



Building Arcs Between Generations:

Conversation with the Keynote
Speaker and Next Generation
Respondents

My name is Carson Vincent (He/Him/They/Them), and I am a 4th year majoring in biochemistry and religion at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, MN. I grew up in Amery, Wisconsin where I return every summer to work at Wapo Bible Camp. Outside of classes I am the current president of Augsburg University Student Ministries, I play tuba in the concert band, and I stay involved in the ELCA's Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

I have always been drawn to the eco-faith movement as being Christian inherently calls us to be good stewards for the sake of all creation. This year's EcoFaith Summit's focus on building arcs is incredibly important. For young adults, it can feel like we're staring down the barrel of the current climate crisis with no idea how to respond. It's easy to get lost in this feeling, so I'm interested in connecting with others facing the same fears, so we can lean on and learn from one another.



ARC BUILDING SESSIONS



ARC BUILDING SESSIONS

2:00 - 2:50 PM

● **Energy Transitions and the IRA** **Sanctuary**

Building Arcs to Renewable Energy

Bret Pence & John Skoug

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is by far the single biggest investment by the federal government to address climate change. We will describe the key tax incentives and rebates for homeowners and nonprofits (churches, schools, etc.) that are considering investing in renewable energy production, electric vehicles (EVs) and energy efficiency improvements (from heat pumps to insulation). Along with tips for how to access these incentives, we will have case studies relating to installing a solar array for a church, a home geothermal heating system, and an EV will be discussed.

● **Graceful Conversations** **Parish Hall**

Building Arcs across Divided Perspectives

Rev. Emily Meyer & Tammy Walhof

Our society has become increasingly polarized! As individuals put their partisan identities above most everything else (including their faith identity), how should we engage with others in ways that build arcs rather canyons? How do we express our values and concerns without being partisan ourselves? How can we avoid triggers, and keep disagreements from becoming hostile engagements, rather than grace-filled exchanges? How can we share perspectives and viewpoints while respecting the views of those with whom we disagree? This session will explore both communication principles and methods to maintain and share our values in ways that build relationships rather than further division.

● **Joining the Pollinator Plot** **Lower Commons**

Building an Arc of Pollinator Sanctuaries

Dan Schutte, Tom Uecker, John Sippola & Kim Wickman

In this family-friendly Arc Session, we invite you to help us achieve our goal of planting pollinator demonstration plots on the grounds of every church in the ELCA. Tom Uecker (Monarch Man) will trace the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Pollinator journey. Dan Schutte from Shoreview Natives will share why we need pollinators. Then, we will tour First Lutheran Church's (FLC) garden and hear from Dan and John Sippola how the garden got planted. Kim Wickman will tell how the FLC garden inspired her to design and plant her own.

● **Letters to My Body of Water** **Education Room**

Rediscovering our Spiritual Arc with Water

Sharon Day

We take care of that which we love. This workshop will lead participants through an exercise where they identify their body of water, draw a picture of this particular body of water, a stream, a brook, a river, lake or ocean. Then they will write a love letter to this body of water, noticing the changes over the years as a result of climate change, and for the ways they wish to this body of water will be in the future.

ARC BUILDING SESSIONS

3:00 - 3:50 PM

● **Building Arcs Between Generations** *Sanctuary* *Conversation with the Keynote Speaker and Next Generation Respondents* Larry Rasmussen, Gigi Calland and Carson Vincent

It is often observed that those who are least responsible for the climate crisis and ecological destruction are the ones being impacted the most. Among those most impacted - people of color, island nations, indigenous rainforest inhabitants, low-income communities, animals, plants, water, air - are the youngest generations. They are born into a crisis they did not create. What planet are we inheriting, the younger generations ask. If they are angry, who would blame them? For those who lived as adults during the decades of skyrocketing greenhouse gas emissions and ecosystem destruction, they face responsibility for their unintended, yet predictable, legacy. What planet are we leaving for the next generations, they ask? As Larry Rasmussen's latest book, *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing*, describes, the gap between younger and older is now not just generational. It is geological. How do we, across the whole spectrum of age and lived experience, build relational arcs for a livable planet? Join our keynote speaker, Larry Rasmussen, and youth and young adult respondents, Gigi Calland and Carson Vincent, in this cross-generational arc building conversation!

● **Climate Grief and Mental Health** *Education Room* *Building Arcs of Awareness and Wellness in Anxious Times* Rev. Emily Meyer and Joy Hensel

Join us in this workshop to learn about eco-anxiety and how climate change impacts our mental health. Together, we will learn and practice how to best tend to our bodies, minds, and spirits amidst uncertainty. We will also connect you with a link to a tangible take-home tool kit filled with resources that will equip and empower you, your faith community, friends, and families.

● **Political Advocacy and Action** *Parish Hall* *Building Arcs for Necessary Change* Bret Pence and Tammy Walhof

Most people agree that to create systemic change in our society, one must enact policies within the political process, be it through new legislation, supportive elected officials, or direct advocacy. However, in an increasingly polarized public environment, many congregations and congregational members are justifiably concerned about the effects of bringing "politics" directly into their community space. In this session, Tammy Walhof, Lutheran Advocacy and Bret Pence, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, will discuss the lines that nonprofit political advocates try to walk to lift their values within political spaces, and will seek to foster discussion about best practices for congregational organizing around values and issues, including practical tips and resources.

● **Zero Waste Kids** *Lower Commons* *Building Arcs with our Youngest Generation* April Hepokoski

Learn how to create less waste in your life by reusing, repurposing, recycling, and composting! Inspired by April's book, *Zero Waste Kids*, we will:

- Make No-Sew T-Shirt Bags
- Plant vegetable seeds to grow our own healthy food
- Make Recycle and Compost signs to display at home to encourage discarded materials to be used again

SHARON DAY

Letters to My Body of Water:

Rediscovering our spiritual
arc with water



Sharon's spiritual life is to care for water. In her Anishinaabe ways, women have taken care of the water since time immemorial and believe it is the blood of Mother Earth. In 2003, Sharon joined the late Anishinaabe elder Josephine Mandamin to begin Mother Earth Water Walks to raise awareness about water issues.

Today, Sharon continues to carry forward this modern ceremonial tradition with Nibi, or Water Walks. Every Sunday, Sharon leads groups of women water walkers around lakes and rivers in ceremony. The walks are an acknowledgment of water as a life giver. They're focused on and implemented in faith: faith in the water spirits, faith in the earth, faith in humankind and faith in the power of love.

Because women also give life, they are the keepers of the water. They unite with others in an expression of love and hope for a better future for their grandchildren. The water walkers carry the water from the headwaters to the mouth of the river or lake to pray for the water, often covering hundreds of miles.

"Every step is a prayer to the water spirits," says Sharon.

She has led more than a dozen walks along the Missouri River, Mississippi River, Ohio River, Seneca Lake, and many others.

Sharon has received numerous awards, including the Resourceful Woman Award and The National Native American AIDS Prevention Resource Center's Red Ribbon Award. She has been named among the 100 Best Loved Women by Yes! Magazine. The state of Minnesota and both of the Twin Cities have recognized Sharon's contributions by declaring November 10 in her honor.

Sharon's loving message to the water might also be a healing prayer for all people: "This is how you started off, this is how we wish for you to be again. Remember that at one time you were pure and clean at the source." Sharon M. Day is enrolled in the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe, and makes her home in Minnesota, where she is a founder and executive director of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force, a vital provider of culturally appropriate health services, programs and housing. She is a grandmother, great-grandmother, and an artist, musician, and writer.

JOY HENSEL

Climate Grief and Mental Health: Building Arcs of Awareness and Wellness in Anxious Times



Joy Hensel, MA, LADC, ADC-MN, is from Duluth Minnesota. Currently, Joy is the Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness for the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA, has been trained as an Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor, and a full-time parent. She enjoys opportunities to speak, teach and be a resource to congregations. Joy attended graduate school at Luther Seminary, the Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School of Addiction Studies and at the Adler Graduate School. Joy's background in youth and family ministry includes eight years in congregations, and as the Program Director at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry. Joy has worked at The College of St. Scholastica developing a Collegiate Recovery Program and as an outpatient chemical dependency counselor in a dual diagnosis program for adolescents.

APRIL HEPOKOSKI

Zero Waste Kids: Building Arcs with our youngest generation



April Hepokoski is a sustainability activist and lives a near zero waste lifestyle. She is a contributing author in the book, *Zero Waste Kids*, by Rob Greenfield. She founded a nature-based preschool, The Little Barnyard Preschool, that she runs with an environmental focus. She also founded the of Closed-Loop Zero Waste and shares her story and lifestyle in her new book, *Closing the Loop on Zero Waste*. She is involved in her community by leading the group, Zero Waste Duluth, where she inspires others to live a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly life.

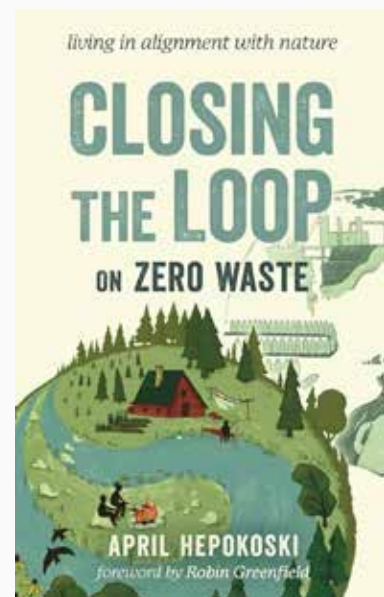
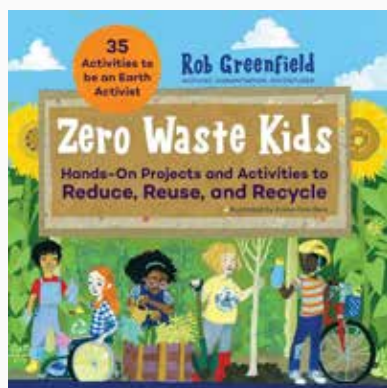
FB and IG:

The Little Barnyard Preschool

Zero Waste Duluth

Website: <https://www.thelittlebarnyardpreschool.com>

Blog: <http://www.zerowastenatureschool.com>



REV. EMILY MEYER

Graceful

Conversations:

Building Arcs across divided perspectives

*Climate Grief and
Mental Health:*

Building Arcs of Awareness
and Wellness in Anxious Times



Ordained in the ELCA, Rev. Emily Meyer has served as a pastor, liturgical artist, and faith formation leader; she's also danced, choreographed, designed costumes, written scripts, produced, directed, and sung on/for stages around MN. Emily is also a certified facilitator of Contemplative Prayer Small Groups and Retreats and mindfulness practices. Her liturgical work appears in Sundays and Seasons, 2024; she is a regular contributor to Green Blades Rising Preachers Roundtable. Emily served as Liturgical Arts Choreographer and Coordinator for the Lutheran World Federation's 2023 Global Assembly in Krakow, Poland. She currently lives in Minneapolis and serves as a resource curator, creative consultant, and innovation catalyst as the executive director of the ecumenically supported The Ministry Lab.

BRET PENCE

Energy Transitions and the Inflation Reduction Act:

Building Arcs to renewable
energy

Political Advocacy & Action:

Building Arcs for Necessary Change



Bret Pence, Greater Minnesota Director for Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, focuses on supporting the lively volunteer network in Northern Minnesota, of which he was a member when it was formed in 2014. He is a resource for energy policy, as well as efficiency and solar project consultation, having previously worked for the non-profit, Ecolibrium3, in the field of community energy.

Bret obtained a Master of Art in Management (MAM), with a focus on sustainability and organizational development, from the College of St. Scholastica in 2010, and a BA from Colorado State University before there was a public internet (it's true!). In between, he was a guide in the Rocky Mountain West and worked for REI. When he is not tinkering with solar panels and trying to figure out how to pinch another watt or two, he tries to get outside as much as possible. Bret lives in a beautiful neighborhood in Duluth with his wife, Laura, and sons Colin and Davey.

DAN SCHUTTE

Joining the Pollinator Plot: Building an Arc of Pollinator Sanctuaries



Dan Schutte is owner of Shoreview Natives, based in Duluth. He started growing Minnesota-native plants over a decade ago as a hobby and hasn't looked back. With over 15 years of environmental education and natural resource management experience, he holds a strong passion for transitioning outdoor spaces into landscapes that support our declining pollinator populations. Dan was a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay, served on the Minnesota Governor's Committee for Pollinator Protection from 2016-2018, and currently lives with his family in Two Harbors, Minnesota where he owns and operates Shoreview Natives. He holds B.S. degrees in Biology and Environmental Science from Iowa State University, and a Masters of Teaching and Learning from Colorado State University.

JOHN SIPPOLA

Joining the Pollinator Plot: Building an Arc of Pollinator Sanctuaries

John Sippola is a member of the Northeastern MN Synod EcoFaith Network leadership team. He is a retired ELCA pastor and leader of the Creation Care Team of First Lutheran Church in Duluth.

He has spent most of his seventy-five years fishing, hiking, and experiencing the wonders, waters, and watersheds of Lake Superior: Thunder Bay, Ontario (ten years), Marquette, Michigan (thirteen years), and Duluth, Minnesota (forty-three years). John and his wife, Carlene have four children, seven grandchildren, and Finn, the dog.



JOHN SKOUG

Energy Transitions and the Inflation Reduction Act:

Building Arcs to renewable
energy



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 (lots of Garlic), removing invasive trees and re-planting with pine and hardwoods, and planting our “back yard” with 1.5 acre in pollinator habitat. We are on a journey towards sustainable living, and derive enormous inspiration from God’s Call to us to Care for Creation.

John is involved in Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Wisconsin Farmers Union and is the President of Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls where he also leads the Creation Care Committee. His volunteer efforts are all grounded in environmental stewardship.

John earned a B.S. in Chemistry from UW-River Falls and a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Purdue University in 1987. He has 3 children and 3 granddaughters of whom he is immensely proud! He enjoys being with family, loves the outdoors, and is an avid sports fan.

e-mail: johnskoug@gmail.com

TOM UECKER

Joining the Pollinator Plot: Building an Arc of Pollinator Sanctuaries



Tom is a retired teacher who loves the outdoors. He spent his teaching career in Sauk Centre and Blue Earth. He has a passion (obsession?) for monarch butterflies. As a teacher he began each school year by raising the last monarchs of summer with his Special Education students and sending the monarchs on their way to Mexico. He began a non-profit with some friends called Duluth Monarch Buddies. Check out their website at: duluthmonarchbuddies.org.

TAMMY WALHOF

Graceful

Conversations:

Building Arcs across divided perspectives

Political Advocacy & Action:

Building Arcs for Necessary Change



Tammy Walhof has served as director of Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota since 2014. Prior to her role at LA-MN, Tammy served as Regional Organizer (Upper Midwest and Plains) and Senior Organizer at Bread for the World. Her passion for justice has led her to volunteer with low-income families in the U.S., work for 6 years in community development & organizing in Latin America, travel to various African countries, and work in advocacy for more than 25 years. Tammy is a graduate of Dordt College (B.A. - History, Political Science, & Secondary Education) and Binghamton University in New York State (M.A. - Public Policy Analysis & Administration).

KIM WICKMAN

Joining the Pollinator Plot:

Building an Arc of Pollinator Sanctuaries

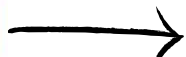
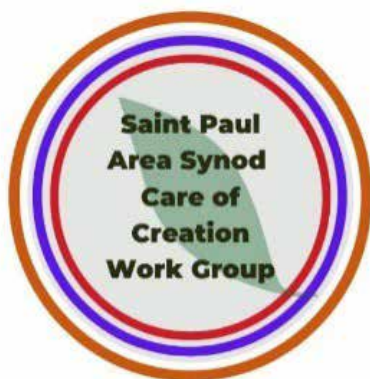
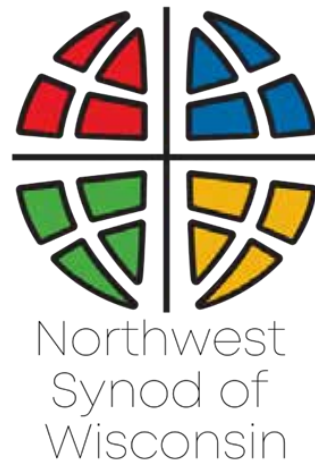
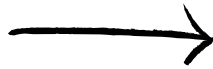


Kim Wickman is a self employed Graphic Designer and lifelong Duluthian. In her free time she loves gardening, watercolor painting, camping and doing anything outdoors. Kim developed her love of gardening by watching her parents over the years as they are always adding new gardens to their yard. Her goal is to create beautiful, low maintenance gardens using plants from a variety of sources... neighborhood perennial sales, local greenhouses and chunks of plants from family and friends. She loves to start small and keep adding as she has time to do more.

SUMMIT PRESENTERS



SUMMIT PRESENTERS



SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



The Northeastern Minnesota Synod EcoFaith Network

*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

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

Since 2008...

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod EcoFaith Network, originally the Synod Creation Care Team, has been nurturing a growing network of congregations and others living out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation. A dedicated synod **EcoFaith Network Leadership Team** has continued to meet monthly to nurture this growing network. Its **annual leadership retreats** since 2011 are now shared with participants from neighboring synod care of creation teams.

Over the years...

We have sponsored theological seminars, workshops for synod conferences, special trainings, and synod wide annual creation care retreats. A series of gifts from the Lutheran Community Foundation (now the *InFaith* Community Foundation) allowed us to begin offering creation care microgrants and to hire our first part-time communications coordinator. In 2017, synod retreats became annual spring **EcoFaith Summits**, which **we now co-present** with the St. Paul Area Synod and the NW Synod of Wisconsin.

In 2020...

when the Covid-19 pandemic shut down the EcoFaith Summit, we launched the **Green Blades Rising Newsletter**, now with a circulation of over 2,200. With *Together Here Ministries* and the *St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group*, we offered a zoom workshop series, *Called to Arise: Standing at the Intersection of Racism, Inequality, and the Environment*, and developed a video series, *Moments of Arising*, based on the Easter hymn, *Now the Green Blade Rises*, with four new environmentally focused stanzas. We also initiated the **Green Blades Preaching Roundtable** and began publishing **Green Tips** and **EcoFaith Book Reviews**. In 2021 and 2022, we held two EcoFaith Summits on-line, the second one co-presented with the St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group.

Last year...

Our synod, meeting in assembly, adopted to EcoFaith resolutions, **Responding to the Kairos Moment of the Climate Crisis**, and **The Pollinator Synod Resolution**, affirming that the care of creation is integral to our witness to the Gospel, especially in these times of deepening crisis. Additionally, the synod began to include the EcoFaith Network in its budget.

Now...

Congregations are responding to these resolutions by becoming **EcoFaith Network Partner Congregations**, by praying for the creation, and by finding ways to embody the care and repair of creation. **Micro-grants** continue to support these efforts. Thirty-nine congregations and growing are joining **the Synod Pollinator Project**, becoming **Pollinator Sanctuaries** by planting pollinator plots, large or small. Our pollinator project steering committee has created guidelines and yard signs for Pollinator Sanctuary congregation, and offers mentoring, support, and zoom sessions.

We are called...

by the paradoxical power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit to care for and repair God's beloved earth in this decisive, Kairos time. We join you in responding to God's movement!



Pollinators are endangered by the loss of natural habitat.

We need them. And they need us.

Join the Plot.

Create pollinator sanctuaries and Monarch Way Stations.
At your church. In your synod. In your neighborhood.
Be a demonstration plot for earth honoring faith.

The EcoFaith Summit 2023, *The Pollinator Plot: Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis*, called 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. We all steward plots of land, even tiny ones, which can become pollinator habitat. As participants in this great plot, faith communities of every size and place can be demonstration plots, pollinating alternative ways of living. 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.

After that Summit, the Northeastern Minnesota Synod in its assembly voted to become a **Pollinator Synod**, to "promote pollinator friendly habitats on their church grounds, at home, and in the neighborhood".... and 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." Thirty-nine Northeastern Minnesota Synod congregations and growing have or are establishing pollinator sanctuaries. Congregations in other Upper Midwest synods are doing the same.

Wherever you are, join the Plot.

Learn more at <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/pollinator-project>

Or email ecofaith@nemnsynod.org

Get a Pollinator Sanctuary Yard Sign at Pollinator Plot Table at the Summit.

*The beautiful **Pollinator Mandala**, above, was created in hand drawn form during that Summit by the **Rev. Sarah S. T. Bishop**, assistant to the bishop for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Pollinator Sanctuary Yard Signs with this mandala are springing up all over the Northeastern Minnesota Synod.

The Green Blades Newsletter & Preaching Roundtable

Green Blades Rising Monthly Newsletter



Stories, events, Green Tips, book reviews, advocacy opportunities, Worship resources, Green Blades preaching roundtable, news

Sponsored by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod EcoFaith Network
with the St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group

Subscribe: <https://nemnsynod.org/green-blades-rising-newsletter/>

The Green Blades Preaching Roundtable



*Ecological implications and intersections
in the weekly lectionary by preachers and other writers*

Published monthly in the Green Blades Rising Newsletter
Distributed weekly to the Green Blades preaching community
Editor and coordinator: Kristin Foster

**To receive the reflections each week, or,
to inquire about writing for the roundtable**
email Pastor Kristin Foster @ revkristinfoster@gmail.com

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Creation Care Team



The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Creation Care Team 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 the creation of Green Teams in all 192 congregations within our synod, our mission has become more sharply focused upon equipping congregations to take new steps towards a greener, more sustainable life together.

2023 Activities:

- Presented “Go Big or Go Home: How to Supercharge Your Green Team” at Walking Together in February. The workshop had great attendance!
- We had a booth at Walking Together and another at Synod Assembly that included giving out samples of Eco-Friendly Products made available through a Thrivent Grant. We also gave out information about pollinator habitats, composting, seed catalogs and packets.
- Pastor Karen Behling and Greg Kaufmann represented the Synod in planning an EcoFaith Summit – The Pollinator Plot: Cross+Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis. This was a tri-synod effort with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and the St. Paul Area Synod. It was held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN on Saturday, April 29th.
- John Skoug was a Storyteller at The EcoFaith Summit – The Pollinator Plot.
- Members of our team have written for the Northeast Minnesota Synod’s Preaching Roundtable in their Green Blades Rising Newsletter and will continue in 2024.
- Members of our team have written a few articles for the NWSWI Justice Newsletter in 2023.
- John Skoug finished installing Solar Panels at Peace Lutheran Church in Pigeon Falls. He is very knowledgeable in available grants and the Inflation Reduction Act so is a great resource to congregations interested in Solar Panels.
- Pastor Karen Behling, Ron Hanson and Laurel Boyer represented the synod at an EcoFaith Retreat in Onamia, MN in August. There were 5 synods represented at the retreat.
- John Skoug, Laurel Boyer and Pastor Karen Behling are representing the Synod in planning the 2024 EcoFaith Summit – Cross+Currents in the Flood: Building Arcs Together for a Livable Planet. It will be held on April 6th, 2024 at First Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN.
- We hosted a Synod-Wide Creation Care Zoom Meeting on January 6th. We had 18 participants and felt there were great conversations, and some connections were made. We are hoping to do more of these!

Activities in 2024:

- Presented two workshops at Walking Together (Synod Conference) in February 2024.
 - Jim Boulter, Climate Scientist and Professor at UW – Eau Claire, ELCA Climate Crisis Social Statement
 - John Skoug and Sandy Tauferner, Solar Energy – Renewable Energy.
- Ruffled and handed out 300+ samples of eco-friendly products at Walking Together.
- John Skoug is co-presenting a workshop at the EcoFaith Summit on Energy Transitions and the Inflation Reduction Act.
- We are planning to have a booth at the EcoFaith Summit and are handing out 300+ samples of eco-friendly products through grants from Thrivent.
- Plan to have a booth at Synod Assembly at UW – Eau Claire.



St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group



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 Focus – We strive to be an inspiration and creation care resource for the 110+ congregations in the St Paul Area Synod! We do so in keeping with the ELCA Social Statement, [*Caring for creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*](#) (1993) and the Social Message on [Climate Care](#) (2023)

Our Methods – We always aim to connect with congregations. We continually try to connect congregations with one another, with the synod, and across the ELCA, through various means.

- We strive to keep congregations current on God's call to care for creation and on the many ways this is possible. We offer and receive communications through our group's list-serve; Synod Toolkit presentations; phone calls; personal contacts; church forums; Lutherans Restoring Creation webinars; and *Green Blades Rising Newsletter* subscriptions (<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/subscribe>).
- Our members advocate for legislation that supports socially just creation care and encourages our congregations to do likewise.
- Our members lend their creative expertise to worship, liturgy, song, prayer, to connect and maintain our individual, congregational, synod...blah, blah relationships.

Check out the many resources on the Saint Paul Area Synod website and on the joint website with the Northeast EcoFaith Website:

<https://www.spas-elca.org/resources/for-congregations/care-of-creation/>
<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org>

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Southeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA
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Together Here Ministries

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Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
Northwestern Minnesota Synod Creation Care
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Northeastern Minnesota Synod EcoFaith Network
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St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation

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The Ministry Lab*

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light*

Together Here Ministries*



*Returning Partner



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 Legislators: *Encourage your senator to support S.F.3940 and your representative to support H.F.3566 to update legislation that deals with electronic waste recycling (anything with a cord, a battery, or a circuit board). The 2007 legislation passed in the Legislative Session ending one month before the first iPhone was released. Many discarded electronics end up in the trash causing toxins to be leached into ground water, or released into the air. They also cause fires in landfills, trash processing facilities, collection vehicles and more.*
Talking Points: *a) The definition of "electronics" needs to include all electronics, not just the limited items listed in the 2007 legislation; b) Free statewide e-waste collection needs to be made available to capture all types of electronics, including in Greater Minnesota; c) Minerals captured through electronic recycling are needed for the transition from fossil fuels to a cleaner economy, and could be an economic boon for MN as captured minerals could generate \$2.8 billion in new revenue; d) Not acting is costing taxpayers millions to clean up problems after they occur. Upfront fees will save taxpayers money; e) God calls us to take care of the earth, not destroy it; f) (Say something about yourself and why you care about this issue).*
- 3) **Pray for Your Legislators & Legislative Decisions:** Pray for wise decisions, decreasing polarization, good relationships with colleague legislators, & stamina for long days through these couple months 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.

LUTHERANS RESTORING CREATION



I WANT TO...

bring people of faith into the
creation care conversation
with me!

bit.ly/LRCTalks

I WANT TO...

Communicate effectively
about science, politics and
theology!

bit.ly/LutheransLearnEcoTheo



I WANT TO...

Make an action plan and see
what others are doing!

bit.ly/LRCActs

WE CAN HELP!

Lutherans Restoring Creation is
grassroots movement promoting
creation care in the ELCA!

LutheransRestoringCreation.org





Supporting Vibrant Ministry for Our Changing World



Executive Director: Rev. Emily Meyer

The Ministry Lab curates and creates materials for all areas of ministry with member-only and public services.

<p>We exist thanks to our generous Judicatory Sponsors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Conference UCC • Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area • Synod of Lakes and Prairies • United Theological Seminary <p>Become a subscription member here!</p>	<p>Member congregations enjoy free or reduced-fee access to our:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lending Library • Consulting • Labyrinths & singing bowl • Fresh & Free Resources - like the sermon prepared for Sunday, April 7, 2024!!
<p>Toolkits are popular! Check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WaterThreads: Local Water & Indigenous Protectors • Climate Grief & Mental Health • Courageous Spaces: Congregations that Listen, Lament, & Reconcile 	<p>Our partnership with Innovation Lab gives members reduced-fee access to their Innovation Culture Index, with results reviews and consultation. We also facilitate their Ministry Transformation Labs, an 18-month journey toward a more resilient community.</p> 
 <p>Six New Things highlights books, webinars, community opportunities, and Great Ideas - some with simple ways to introduce climate care to even reluctant congregations!</p> <p>Subscribe to Six New Things here.</p>	<p>Lib Guides cover numerous ministry areas and a range of topics. For Creation Care see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith Formation: Books, Curriculum, Multimedia • Spiritual Practices: Creation-Oriented • Social Justice: Climate & Sustainability • Worship: Earth Day & Season of Creation

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





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

Our Podcast brings together the voices of Native Americans and white settlers to reflect on the effects of treaty violation, the value of reparations, and to imagine a future of living well together.

brokenlands.org

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.

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"The Augsburg community is deeply committed to what it means to build a sustainable urban environment. We are uniquely situated in a city neighborhood and are privileged to have a variety of opportunities to explore the interconnectedness of urban life with both human and natural forces. Our relationships with our diverse neighbors, with the Mississippi River, and with other neighborhoods in our vibrant city are opportunities for learning, for civic engagement, and for faithful service. We are proud of what we do to honor sustainability, but also deeply aware of the need for ongoing vigilance and wise stewardship of the gifts of our environment."

-President Paul C. Pribbenow

What is Environmental Stewardship?

Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg University is an intentional commitment to responsibly nurture all aspects of sustainability – environmental, economic, social, and personal wellness – on our campus, in our neighboring community, and among our institutional partners. It includes stewarding a culture of sustainability alongside of our most precious resources – Air, Land, Water, Built Environment, People, Food, and Energy.



Image and model credit: [Bemidji State University](#)

Sustainability

Augsburg is grateful for the leadership and generosity of our colleagues at [Bemidji State University](#) who developed and shared this model for sustainability we now hold. It recognizes the interdependence of personal wellness, society equity, economic feasibility, and environmental well-being.

Augsburg's Role

As a Lutheran university situated in the city, Augsburg imagines environmental stewardship as central to its mission. A longstanding commitment to service means we pay close attention to our surroundings locally and globally. Featured in our curriculum and grounded in our daily practices, attention to ecological concerns shapes much of our work both on and off campus.

Augsburg has an extensive [environmental history](#) beginning much earlier than 2009, when the university joined the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Augsburg continues to work towards improving the environmental impact of the university and is dedicated to meeting the goals laid out in our [climate commitments](#) and other [initiatives](#).

Check out our [blog](#) for the latest environmental news and events on and around campus.

Augsburg Campus Ministry: www.augsburg.edu/campusministry



LUTHER
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Science, Truth, and Christian Faith in a Time of Eco-Crisis

*Watch Rick Lindroth deliver the 2024 Rutlen Lecture on Faith and Creation,
"Science, Truth, and Christian Faith in a Time of Eco-Crisis."*

luthersem.edu/rutlen24

The ecological polycrisis confronting the world today is unparalleled in human history and threatens to unravel, within decades, the very fabric of civilization. Long battered by the "dominion" theology of Christianity, the global environment has suffered further in recent decades because of entrapment in a vortex of science denialism, political polarization, and cultural tribalism. Nonetheless, as a faith system committed to truth, hope, and unity across cultural divides, Christianity also provides a path forward. Rick Lindroth argues for a re-wilding of the Christian ethic of creation care—one that promotes enchantment, connection, reciprocity, and justice—for the betterment of humanity and flourishing of the living world.

Rick Lindroth is a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Ecology Emeritus and former associate dean for research at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. His research focused on evolutionary ecology and global change ecology in forest ecosystems. He has been a Fulbright Fellow and is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Ecological Society of America, the Entomological Society of America, and the American Scientific Affiliation. Funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other agencies, he and his research group have published 250 journal articles and book chapters. He holds a PhD from the University of Illinois—Urbana.

A Cosmic Adventure through Science and Faith

Journey through the barrier between science and faith in an engaging online course.

Many will tell you that the gap between science and Christianity cannot be bridged, but it can! Astrophysicist Paul Wallace exercises both faith and intellect as he traces his journey away from God and back again. With help from renowned scientists through the ages—including Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, and Newton—Wallace proves that love for fact and truth does not have to be sacrificed in the search for meaning and significance.

In this compelling four-session course, you will be enlightened and challenged. Each session includes a captivating video, summary points, questions for thought or discussion, and quiz questions to keep you on track. Complete the course at your own pace—it is free and offered by Luther Seminary as part of our ongoing mission to educate leaders and serve in God's world.

Activate your free course today
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NORTHFIELD, MN



ST. OLAF | THE LUTHERAN CENTER

FOR FAITH, VALUES, AND COMMUNITY

ABOUT US

St. Olaf College's Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community encourages the interreligious exploration of faith, values, and vocation and provides opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to connect with each other around questions of belief, meaning, purpose and life choices. Sign-up to receive our Newsletter!



The Nourishing Vocation Project (NVP) invites participants and whole congregations to deepen their understanding of God's call upon their life and work so that they might more intentionally live life on purpose and engage in ministry on purpose for the common good. It is a project of the Thriving Congregations Initiative of Lilly Endowment Inc., As one of our participating pastors has said, "It is entirely rooted in a Spiritual practice returning us to the core of what discernment truly is."



Nourishing Vocation with Children seeks to enrich children's capacity to know, love, and serve God through child-attentive, arts-centric intergenerational worship and prayer practices. The program will equip congregations and their leaders with ideas, resources, and hands-on experiences that will help them integrate music, theater, movement, poetry, and visual arts into congregational worship and prayer, in ways that both center children and deepen engagement for the congregation as a whole.



The Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts: Nourishing Vocation will take place Monday, July 29 through Wednesday, July 31, 2024. This year the conference will combine signature CWTA experiences with innovative and imaginative work being done by both the Nourishing Vocation Project and Nourishing Vocation with Children, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Char Rachuy Cox. All are welcome to attend!

Visit our website for additional information.



stolaf.edu/lutherancenter



stolaf.edu/nourishing-vocation



stolaf.edu/cwta

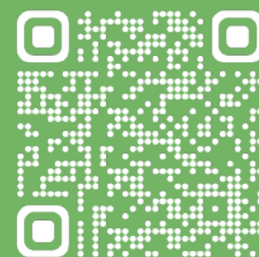


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CAMP PARTNERS

Luther Park Bible Camp – Chetek
Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry





About Luther Park Bible Camp

Luther Park Bible Camp is a special outdoor ministry affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) located in the beautiful Northwoods town of Chetek, Wisconsin. Founded in 1932, Luther Park's Lakeside site sits on 10 acres along Prairie Lake. This site acts as the primary location for most of the happenings for the organization, from Fall, Winter, and Spring retreats, gatherings, events, weddings, and much more, to our three month summer camp program. With 15 buildings that include a Dining Hall, a Seasonal Chapel, four Retreat Facilities, Indoor Worship Space, eight Cabins, and our offices, we pride ourselves in the Northwoods feel our facilities offer. On the shores of Prairie Lake, a premiere boating and fishing lake, we also have a beautiful pool for the warm summer months, a high & low ropes course, archery, and a nine-hole disc golf course.

LPBC also owns two other sites, making it three places where people are able to be outside enjoying God's creation. The Farm Center, a historic farm across the street from our Lakeside site, is 74 acres of land that is home to our high & low ropes course, archery, disc golf, our garden, chickens, and goats. Onsite is also a barn, environmental education center, hiking trails, platform tents, and open fields to play in. The third site, is Luther Woods, 320 acres of untouched paradise 35 minutes North of Prairie Lake in Birchwood, Wisconsin. Luther Woods has an A-frame cabin, a covered pavilion, the gorgeous Bodins Lake for recreation, and many Northwoods hiking trails. The woods are home to our primitive camping program, where campers can go out and be one with nature, giving witness to their place amongst creation.

Luther Park is an organization inclusive of all, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, caste, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical ability, political belief or affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.



Community

Luther Park is a place where you come to be with people of Faith. Here you get to be part of a community that offers unconditional love to all. We worship God together, multiple times a day. You are participating with people allow you to be your authentic self.

Creation

Luther Park is a place where you come to experience the beauty and awe of creation. Where you learn your place on this Earth, and you learn to care for it. We are here to lean into stewardship and understand what our role is interacting with the land.

Celebration

Luther Park is a place where you come to have fun. We celebrate God through scripture, worship, and prayer. We celebrate life through games, activities, art, music, and good food. We celebrate our world through exploration, adventure, and discovery.

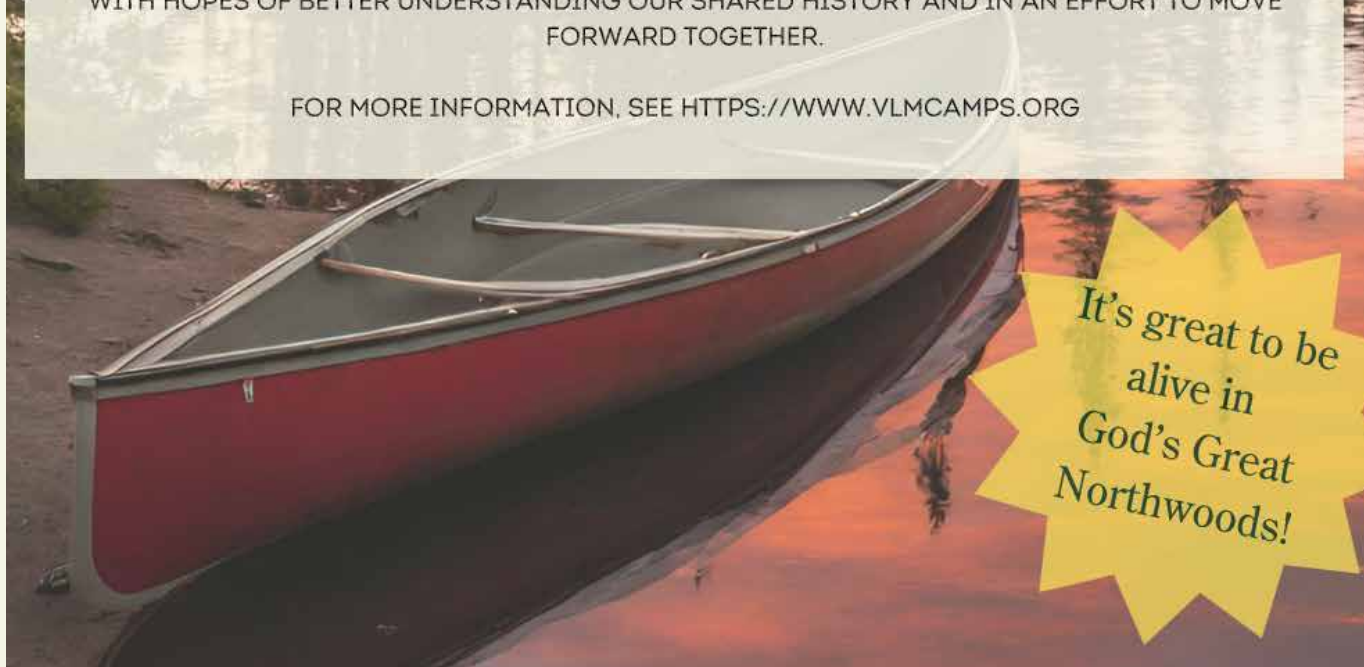


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CAMP HIAWATHA AND CAMP VERMILION ARE SITUATED ON SOME OF THE BEST LAKESHORE IN THE COUNTRY. VLM SEEKS TO EDUCATE OURSELVES AND OUR COMMUNITY IN AN EFFORT TO SUSTAIN THESE LANDS. WE ARE CALLED TO BE CARETAKERS OF CREATION AND KNOW THAT WE ARE PART OF 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](https://www.vlmcamps.org)



*It's great to be
alive in
God's Great
Northwoods!*

CONGREGATION PARTNERS

A Community Called Grace, Bemidji, MN
Calvary Lutheran Church, Wilmar, MN
English Lutheran Church of Bateman, Chippewa Falls, WI





A Community Called Grace (CCG) is a “church without walls and with each other” in Bemidji, MN. We are a faith community whose leadership centers young(ish) adults... folks currently in their 20s – 40s. Our vision is to be a spiritual home for all, especially those who find themselves questioning traditional Christian spaces and are open to new faith experiences.

At CCG we meet each other where we already are – gathering in brew pubs, coffee shops and outdoors. Our monthly worship practice, called GATHER, meets at a local art school in the winter and at a local park in the summer. We host the New Perspectives Book Club dedicated to reading work by BIPOC, Queer and Women theologians. We feel called to move with our community’s needs, holding a wide variety of gatherings – from an annual “Friendsgiving” meal to candlelight vigils, from ecofaith worship in the waters of Lake Bemidji to coffee shop theology conversations.

CCG is Lutheran in origin (and leadership) but you do not need to have the same beliefs as we do to join us for any gatherings – We believe in and affirm the sacredness and radical inclusion of God’s people – especially people who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ and who have experienced exclusion or spiritual trauma in Christian spaces. We are a community committed to the work of anti-racism, liberation, and social and environmental justice for all of God’s beloved.

You. Belong.

Connect with us!

Facebook (facebook.com/calledgrace)

Instagram (@called_grace)

communitycalledgrace@gmail.com





HEALTHY EARTH – HEALTHY KIDS COMMUNITY ECOFAIR 2024 WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

The purpose of the Calvary Creation Care Team is “to be a catalyst for encouraging creation care awareness and actions at Calvary, in the community and beyond”. One of our six (6) goals is to coordinate creation care with the community.

It was that purpose and goal that led to the encouragement for Karen Kraemer, a retired high school science teacher to become a Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador. It was Karen who advocated for a communitywide EcoFair that would be patterned after a Richfield, MN event. As President elect of the LWV of the Willmar Area, she connected with the City of Willmar Director of Community Growth. They formed a planning group including representatives from the LWV, the City of Willmar, the YMCA, the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, the Willmar School District, the Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (Southwest RSDP), and the Calvary Creation Care Team.

It was decided early on that the EcoFair would include the already annual YMCA Healthy Kids Day. The event was set for Saturday, April 27 at the Willmar Civic Center. There will be a fun run, main stage speakers and up to 50 exhibitors, with Vinje, Calvary and Bethel Lutheran Churches being one of them. The Creation Care exhibit booth will include: information on the “NexTrex Recycling Challenge” that has resulted in Calvary keeping 2 ½ tons of plastic film out of the landfill https://nextrex.com/jsfapp/cdocs/20230724221555_9_jsfwd_493_q2_1.pdf; a TREX bench made of recycled plastic film; photos of team projects; a list of team accomplishments; how to Reduce/Reuse/Recycle; a new Calvary Creation Care brochure; drawings for wildlife photography and art; and more.

Jack Behr, co-chair
Calvary Lutheran Church
Creation Care Team
Willmar, MN 56201



English Lutheran Church of Bateman's (ELCB) Green Team was formed 2022. We have a small, but energetic team! Here are some of the things we have accomplished:



- We have a large, well-established pollinator garden outdoors.
- We have handed out approximately \$1000 in eco-friendly product samples at events through our Synod. The products were made available through Thrivent.
- We had four Creation Care Worship services in 2023, including a Native American service that included Bob Bell, a professor in the American Indian Studies program at UW - Eau Claire, giving a short presentation. We are planning to have a Creation Care service each season.
- We joined a nation-wide coalition for faith organizations working towards climate justice. There are lots of great resources available on their website and many denominations and organizations involved in the coalition. We also received a large banner to hang outside or church building. Link: <https://www.onehomeonefuture.org/>.
- Laurel Boyer, our Green Team Chair, completed Climate Ambassador Training through Blessed America. It is a free, four-hour, on-demand training that will empower and equip you to inspire clergy, congregants, your workplace, community and policymakers to action on climate change that makes a difference. After completion, you are part of a large community of Climate Ambassadors that offers numerous resources and a platform to communicate with each other. Link: <https://blessedtomorrow.org/blessed-tomorrow-ambassadors-training/>
- Laurel Boyer attended the EcoFaith Leader's Retreat in Onemia, MN last fall and through this, joined a team, representing our Synod in planning this Summit. We are one of three Synod's presenting the Summit along with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and the St. Paul Area Synod.
- We started a battery and a soft plastics recycling program at ELCB.
- We have been using eco-friendly dinnerware for events and meals.
- Two people from St. James Trinity Lutheran Church in Fall Creek (the other Church in our two-point parish) have joined our team to make a combined Green Team.
- St. James Trinity is planning to create a pollinator garden this Spring and they are also recycling batteries.



DONORS

Thank you to our donors!

Friends (up to \$100)

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- Mary Hess
- Kathleen Hollander
- Bob Lehner
- Jenny McLellan
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- John Skoug Family
- Anonymous

Do you want to make a donation to the EcoFaith Summit? Use this QR code to donate to the EcoFaith Summit or go to <https://nemnsynod.org/donate/>

Use this QR code to donate to the EcoFaith Summit or go to <https://nemnsynod.org/donate/>



EXHIBITORS

Book Table

Letter Writing Table

A Community Called Grace

Augsburg University

NE MN Synod EcoFaith & Pollinator Project

ELCA Young Adults

First Lutheran Church

Luther Park Bible Camp

Lutheran Campus Ministry (University of Minnesota)

Lutherans Restoring Creation

The Ministry Lab

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Northwestern Synod of Wisconsin Creation Care

St. Olaf College

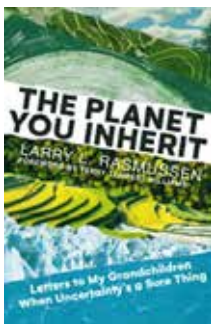
St. Paul Area Synod Creation Care

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry



**A book display at the Summit will include display copies of some of the books reviewed by John Hanson and others for the Green Blades Rising publication since 2020, and a list of all the titles.
In addition, we will have these books for sale:**

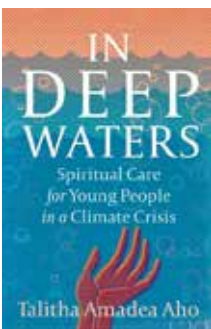


The Planet You Inherit

Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing

By Larry Rasmussen

Price: \$20 (author's discount)



In Deep Waters

Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis

By Talitha Amadeo Aho

Price: \$17 (discounted price)



Drawing Close, Encountering Joy

From the Book of Nature Series

By Janice Kirk

Price: Make a Donation for future EcoFaith Summits



Our keynote speaker's most recent book, *The Planet You Inherit*, was written as letters to his grandchildren. They invite us to build an arc of love to and with the people whose lives will be most affected by climate change and ecological destruction. They invite us to build a different legacy.

What letters would you write about this planet? To your grandchildren? Your children? Your grandparents? Or another important relationship in a different generation than yours?

Write one (or begin to write one) at the Summit. Visit the letter writing table in the exhibit area.

They can be short or long, scientific, theological, social minded, or whatever your chosen orientation might be. We will provide pens, stationery and envelopes. You can even wait and write or finish them on your own after the Summit is over. If permitted, we will make a copy of your letter or take a photo of it.

And so that you might see just one example, here is a letter from John Skoug, one of our scientifically minded and trained planning team members, to his granddaughters:

February 2024



Dear Junie, Marriion and Arla -

Hi girls, I hope you are doing well in Portland and Madison! Poppa has been thinking a lot about you lately and what your future will be like. Although you are too young to fully understand what I am about to say, I hope your parents will save this for you to read again when the time is right.

It was great for our whole family to be together over the Christmas holiday at my home in the country. I know we were all disappointed there was no snow. Since Christmas, with the exception of one snowfall and 10 days of cold weather, our winter has been unusually warm and dry and this continues the trend of the past 10 years of noticeably warmer (and shorter) winters. The year 2023 was the warmest year ever recorded. And it must be said that the warming of our planet is caused by human activity (burning fossil fuels) and this is what has me worried. Scientists have been saying since the mid-1980's that we needed to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we emit into the atmosphere, for this is what is causing our planet to become warmer - all those gases like CO₂ and methane trap heat, and natural ecosystems, forests, grasslands and the oceans can't remove the gases as fast as we're emitting them. The global warming is disrupting the earth's cycling of nutrients like carbon, nitrogen and water, and in turn this affects weather patterns and the entire balance of life on earth. This problem is known as climate change - it is upon us now and scientists say it is the biggest problem we humans have ever faced...and I believe them.

Climate change has caused noticeable changes in weather that even you, in your short lifetimes, have witnessed. Junie, do you remember the heat dome in Portland in

the summer of 2022 that made it so hot and dry - and then the smoke from wildfires that caused you to have to stay indoors and later the atmospheric river that brought heavy rains and flooding? Do you girls remember last summer when we were together in Madison when it was 104 degrees? Marriam and Arla, do you remember the hazy, smoky days last summer from Canadian wildfires? These are just a few examples of the extremes of weather that scientists say are linked to climate change - and events like this are happening all around the world and will only get worse if we don't fix it.

So this letter is an apology to you girls - I am deeply sorry for this climate change problem your Poppa and the people of my generation have created and will pass on to you and your generation. I have been fortunate to have lived in a time where mankind, powered almost entirely by fossil fuels, have made great advancements in science, technology, and medicine that have improved the quality of life for people. But we have often done this in an unsustainable way - that is, using earth's resources for the benefit of people, without thinking about how it affects the delicate balance of other plants and animals on earth. I'll give you one simple example - plastic. In my lifetime, there have been many ingenious products that have been devised for which plastic is incredibly useful. They are so cheap to make from fossil fuels that it led to a "single-use" mentality - throw it away when you're done (think straws, plastic spoons and forks, drink bottles and packaging of just about everything we buy). The big corporations which make these nearly indestructible plastics manipulated us to think they can be recycled, which, it turns out, is mostly untrue. So now we make tons and tons of plastics, which makes a lot of greenhouse gas emissions, and which then accumulate in landfills and oceans as waste when people throw them away. This is just one of many unsustainable things my generation has done that is contributing to the climate crisis.

But please do not despair - there is reason for optimism that I'll share with you now. Individual actions are important and Gigi and I have tried to live our lives as sustainably as possible. But collective action is also critical. I've chosen to amplify my voice by working with organizations like Wisconsin Farmers Union, Citizens' Climate Lobby and my Church. These groups are comprised of very smart and dedicated people who also care deeply about respecting nature and solving climate change. My hope for you is that our collective efforts will help others (individuals, corporations and government leaders) to take actions to address climate change. The good news is that there exists a flood of technologies already available to solve climate change, and more are on the way. President Biden has gotten Congress to pass laws that will foster big investments - in renewable electricity (solar and wind farms, geothermal and nuclear), incentives to grow electric vehicles and the charging stations needed; and smart ways to build and renovate homes and factories to be more energy efficient. These changes are happening faster and faster as we speak, but the question remains, how can we make this transition go even faster!

I am also hopeful because our earth has proven resilient. We humans have damaged it before and have found that when we make corrections and give it time to heal, earth is able to recover. When I was a boy in the late 1960's, I was very worried because factories polluted the air and water badly. One of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie was declared "dead" because no fish could survive in it. A river in Ohio was so polluted it started on fire. Our air especially in big cities was harmful to breathe. A chemical used to kill insects also killed baby eagles and nearly made them extinct. Then our government passed the clean air and clean water acts in 1970, and it began setting regulations for car makers to make auto exhaust cleaner, for power plants to burn coal in a cleaner way and for chemicals that harm the environment to be controlled. Lo and behold, things got

better such that the water and air today is cleaner than when I was young - and we see majestic bald eagles soaring in blue skies! These examples provide me hope that we humans can rise to the occasion again and solve the climate crisis.

I'll close by saying that I will never give up, I will keep fighting for all of us to embrace being good stewards of what God has given us in planet earth. I urge you girls to grow up as "earth fighters" too. Get involved with others who are like-minded in this cause, people of faith and from every profession. You will find inner peace knowing you are doing what is right and good to secure a healthy planet for all.

With all my love,
Poppa

Letter Written by John Skoug to his Granddaughters

WORSHIP



Worship and Music

The values of our EcoFaith Summits over the years have always been deeply rooted in our faith and reflected in our worship. Indeed, worship, music and art have enriched our experiences at the summits and have blossomed as the urgency of our gatherings has intensified. The pandemic which rendered our summit virtual in the spring of 2021 gave rise to a ten-part video series spread out over a year and centered on the hymn *Now the Green Blade Rises*, expanded from an Easter hymn into an 8-stanza hymn of environmental crisis. The text, music, visual art, and videography, coupled with the liturgy and message of those videos, began a new chapter of our summit experiences and spawned the name of our monthly newsletter, *Green Blades Rising*.

The worship for **Cross+Currents in the Flood** is shaped by a new hymn entitled **New Song**, written by Paul Jacobson and “workshopped” by the EcoFaith Summit 2024 planning team. The worship is structured around the refrains and four stanzas of this hymn and woven together by dance, scripture, a poetic litany by team member Emily Meyer, and an Indigenous American Thanksgiving Address. The hymn is inspired by Psalm 96, which begins “Sing to the LORD a new song.”

The phrase “new song” appears in the call and response refrains in eight different languages, beginning with the Latin of the early church, traveling through the original Hebrew, and then Arabic, Spanish, Swahili, Anishinaabe, Lakota, and returning to English in the final refrain. Both the hymn and the worship as a whole reflect a world in crisis, but also a hopeful world in which we are called upon to create arcs to a livable, shareable future for our children.

The dance in the worship unifies the four parts of the hymn and service, with dancers streaming rainbow-like arcs through the congregation and to the baptismal font. The dance includes Tibetan-style prayer flags with written petitions from the congregation, procession of prayer flags to the font, and a very large tree of life with lit candles. The worship flows, in a sense, from the assembly to the font and ends with the Tree of Life, echoing the theme *Cross+Currents in the Flood*.

Notes from Paul Jacobson on the hymn *New Song*

After proposing that we have a new hymn which would reflect environmental crisis and incorporate the themes of our 2024 summit, especially themes from Larry Rasmussen’s book ***The Planet You Inherit***, the question naturally arose: What kind of hymn text might stir us up and address those themes? One notion was clear to me. The hymn needed to be grounded in scripture and a biblical passage that would be tied closely to our gathering. But what passage? The flood story of Genesis 6 and 7? Expulsion from the Garden? And then, once upon a Luther Seminary God Pause, the scriptural passage that stirred me as the right passage was Psalm 96, “Sing to the LORD a new song.” This is a psalm in which the primary singer of songs of praise is God’s creation: the heavens and earth, the sea and land, and all the critters therein.

But Psalm 96 is so darn positive. For our summit, I felt that this psalm should start as a lament – not the imperative “Sing a New Song,” but the question “How can we sing a new song?” It echos the the lament of Psalm 137: “How can we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land.” The dilemma that this question poses relates to our mission, in our summit events and otherwise: How can we face harsh realities of environmental crisis and yet remain hopeful. In our worship we straddle the divide between lament and praise, between confession and action.

After writing the first draft of the text, it was perused by my primary editor (my wife Diane) and workshopped by the whole summit planning team, becoming truly the work of a community. For example, as a group we decided to replace the LORD language of most English translations of Psalm 96 with “the Holy One,” a term that evokes the awe of the God the creator and avoids the human sense of “master and subject.” As noted above, the refrain of the hymn went from being just Latin for “new song” to incorporating eight different languages with interesting juxtapositions, such as Hebrew and Arabic, giving the hymn a sense of the whole earth. Working together on our new hymn was an inspiring project and a microcosm of the cosmic nature of the hymn. (Note that “cosmology” is one of the “cairns” talked about by Larry Rasmussen in *The Planet You Inherit*, p.175.)

The music of the hymn, entitled ***Canticum Novum***, is a bit mysterious and adventurous. I can’t really say what key – or even mode – it’s in. The music incorporates both major and minor modes in several keys, and a mode from the Hellenistic early church, the Dorian mode. Like the “*tonus peregrinus*” (the “wandering tone”) of ancient Gregorian psalmody, the hymn’s musical setting travels around. But we found, again in “workshopping” the hymn, that it is singable. What’s more, the call and response form of the refrain (witness much of East African hymnody) brings the congregation into singing in a tuneful, rhythmically-charged, and inviting manner.

And there we have it: The hymn needed to be singable, environmentally edgy, challenging, but hopeful. We pray that it is. The full score of ***New Song*** is available to use in congregations by permission from Paul and can be requested as a pdf score directly from him: jacqueshotteterre@gmail.com.

A Prayer: Send us out, Creator of the Rainbow, with the courage and will to build arcs between the harsh realities of our present world, singing of the hope and promise you offer us through your unending creative and redemptive acts.

The musicians who lead the singing for our summit: Cross+Currents in the Flood

Karen Hanson Sande (organ) is a native of Elgin, MN, attended St. Olaf College (Northfield MN) and Westminster Choir College (Princeton NJ), and is the Director of Music at First Lutheran Church of Duluth, where she also teaches piano and organ.

Levi LaGregg (flute) is an avid composer, flute player, conductor of the Zephyr Flute Choir, and recent graduate from UMD’s music department. When Levi is not making music, he enjoys hiking and foraging, and he works as a counselor at Northwood Children’s Services.

Dr. Michael Fuchs (cantor) has enjoyed an active career as a conductor, educator, and singer. He is the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Superior where he conducts the UWS Singers and Chorale and also serves as the Chair of the Department of Music. He also is the Chorus Director for the Lyric Opera of the North where he conducts the professional LOON COR ensemble and the Director of Choral Activities at First Lutheran Church in Duluth where he oversees an active and vibrant choral program.

Rachel Wyffels (cantor) is a soprano and violinist who is a current Master of Divinity student at Luther Seminary. She also serves as the Communication Coordinator for the EcoFaith Network NE-MN Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod. Rachel graduated from St. Olaf College in 2021 with majors in music and religion, where she studied violin and voice, played violin in the St. Olaf Orchestra, and sang in the St. Olaf Chapel Choir.

Paul Jacobson (piano, composer) studied composition at St. Olaf College, Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music in New York, and Columbia Graduate School of the Arts. He then, inexplicably, entered a 40+ year career playing baroque flute and other 18th century instruments and was a co-founder of Minnesota's The Lyra Baroque Orchestra, now in its 39th season. In recent years Paul has returned to his compositional roots, writing music for the church (hymns, anthems, cantatas, instrumental music) and for chamber ensembles.

The Worship and Music Team for the 2024 Summit

Pastor Dianne Loufman, First Lutheran Church, Duluth

Pastor Emily Meyers, The Ministry Lab, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul

Rachel Wyffels, music and theology graduate of St. Olaf in voice, violin, and theology, and seminarian at Luther Seminary, St. Paul

Paul Jacobson, composer, flutist, keyboard player, member of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, St. Paul



Welcome

Invocation

The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Reading

O God, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

when you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the ground.

I will sing to God as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Bless the Holy One, O my soul.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *When You Send Forth Your Spirit* (next page)

ACS 945

Sending Prayer

Holy and Gracious God,

In your steadfast love for all creation, draw us to the reality of the climate crisis that wounds the work of your hands. Renew us and lead us in the resurrection hope of your son, Jesus Christ, that we may be transformed for the sake of the whole creation.

Amen.

When You Send Forth Your Spirit

Refrain — All



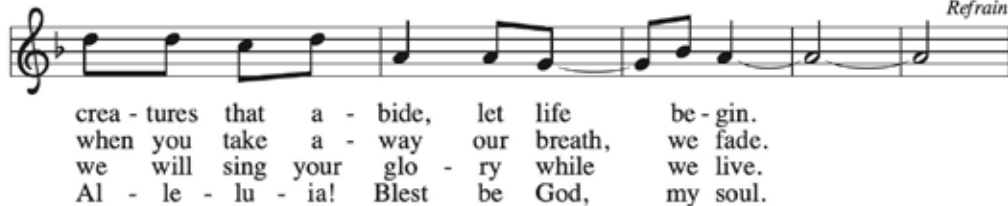
When you send forth your Spir - it, we are re -
newed, we are re-newed. When you send forth your
Spir - it, we are re - newed, we are re-newed.

Leader or All



1 Man - i - fold your works, O God of might:
2 When we look to you to give us food,
3 May the glo - ry of our God en - dure.
4 Now may e - vil cease up - on the earth;
Mak - er of the earth, the air, the light.
you o - pen your hand, fill us with good.
May our God be glad, be strong, be sure.
wick - ed - ness no more shall be of worth.
Wa - ters great and wide and all there - in,
When you hide your face, we are dis - mayed;
Un - to you, O God, our praise we give:
Pleas - ing God shall be our on - ly goal.

Refrain



crea - tures that a - bide, let life be - gin.
when you take a - way our breath, we fade.
we will sing your glo - ry while we live.
Al - le - lu - ia! Blest be God, my soul.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: PSALM 104 (MAKEEVER), Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1987 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Prelude (procession of dancers)

Part I

Proclaim: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice! Psalm 96:1, 11-12

Refrain 1 (Latin)

Musical notation for the Refrain 1 (Latin) song, featuring Call and Response sections.

CALL **RESPONSE** **CALL**

Can we sing a new song? Can we sing a new song? How

RESPONSE **CALL** **RESPONSE**

can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song? Can - ti-cum no-vum, Can - ti-cum no-vum,

CALL **RESPONSE** **ALL**

Can - ti-cum no-vum, Can - ti-cum no-vum. How can the earth sing prai-ses to the Ho-ly One?

Readings: Psalm 96: 1-3; 11-13 (read responsively)

Sing the Holy One a new song;

sing to the Holy One, all the earth.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O God,

for you come to judge the earth.

Stanza 1: "Show us the way to care for your creation"



How can the heav'ns re - joice and ring with an - gel voice when tox - ic clouds are
hov' - ring ov - ver plains? How can the earth re - bound and new life bless the ground on
plan - et plagued by rag - ing flood and flame? O, Sa - vior, en - ter in, in - to a
world weighed down by sin. Show us the way to care for your cre - a - tion.

Prayers from a wounded planet

Creator of Heaven and Earth, You brought forth a beautiful and fruitful world, teeming with abundant life and infused with your goodness and mercy.

But we, your people, have done great harm to this world. We have used its abundant resources greedily and have not tended your garden with care. We have poisoned the atmosphere that sustains us and scarred the ground that nourishes us.

And yet we continue in our destructive ways.

Help us learn to become healers in your world.

Lead us in the ways that can restore health to a wounded creation. Empower us to leave a thriving world for our grandchildren and for all good creatures that on earth will dwell.

May we sing a new song to praise your name.

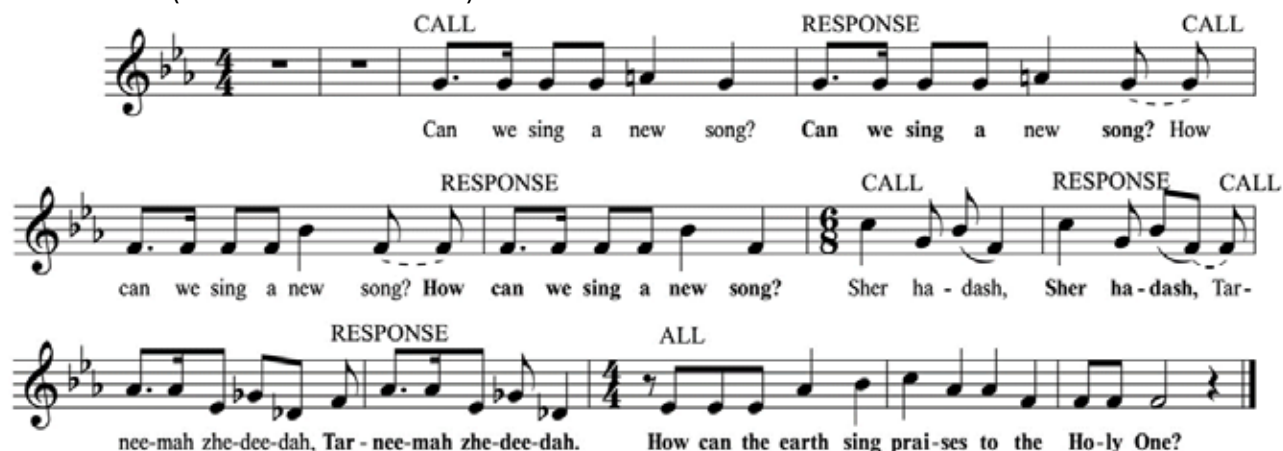
May we sing *sher hadash*. May we sing *tarneemah zhedeedah*.

Let us sing *sher hadash*, *tarneemah zhedeedah*, a new song to the Holy One.

Part II

Proclaim: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

Refrain 2 (Hebrew and Arabic)



CALL RESPONSE CALL
Can we sing a new song? Can we sing a new song? How
RESPONSE CALL RESPONSE CALL
can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song? Sher ha - dash, Sher ha - dash, Tar -
RESPONSE ALL
nee-mah zhe-dee-dah, Tar - nee-mah zhe-dee-dah. How can the earth sing prai-ses to the Ho-ly One?

Readings: Genesis 6:11-14, 17-19, 7:5, 11-12

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth.

And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark and cover it inside and out with pitch.

For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you.

And Noah did all that God had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

from *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing*

Larry L. Rasmussen

For the rest of my days, I will puzzle how it came to pass on our watch that the Holocene morphed into the Anthropocene and we left you a diminished planet. How is it that the order of creation's well-being as primary and human well-being as derivative was flipped? How is it that our imprint is now so deep and dangerous that we are not only the ark but the flood?"

Stanza 2: "Show us the rainbow, promise to creation"

Where shall your crea - tures seek safe har - bor from the deep where now Le - vi - a -

thans in dan - ger thrash? Shall sea-life shore to ___ shore swim free in o - cean's roar where

co - rals die and waves are ___ choked with trash? Cre - a - tor of the sea, from fa - tal

de - luge set us free. Show us the rain - bow, pro - mise to cre - a - tion.

Prayers for Peace and Justice

God of promise,

Where you entrusted us to serve and keep watch over your creation, we have filled the earth with violence and war. We are caught in our own corruption.

We pray for all those suffering from the trauma of war, especially those in Haiti, Gaza, Israel, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan, and for those we lift up in our hearts or aloud. (pause)

Wash away the arcs of violence that we have created.

Lift up new arcs of justice and peace as an everlasting covenant in all the earth.

Stir up in us the thirst for respect, equality and justice for our Indigenous American sisters and brothers. May we come to value the earth and all its creatures as deeply as their reverence for God's creation. May we all, as kindred spirits, raise up our new songs and sing together *Oshkimowin, Olowan*.

We sing together *Oshkimowin, Olowan*, a new song to the Holy One.

Part III

Proclaim: Let the fields exult and all that is therein.

Refrain 3 (Anishinaabe and Lakota)

The musical notation for Refrain 3 is presented in three staves, each with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The notation is designed for a Call and Response format. The first staff begins with a 'CALL' section, followed by a 'RESPONSE' section, and ends with a 'CALL' section. The lyrics under the first staff are: 'Can we sing a new song? Can we sing a new song? How'. The second staff continues the 'RESPONSE' section, followed by a 'CALL' section and another 'RESPONSE' section. The lyrics under the second staff are: 'can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song? Osh - ki - mo - win, Osh - ki - mo - win,'. The third staff begins with a 'CALL' section, followed by a 'RESPONSE' section, and ends with an 'ALL' section. The lyrics under the third staff are: 'O - lo - wan, O - lo - wan. How can the earth sing prai-ses to the Ho-ly One?'. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines to indicate the rhythm and structure of the song.

Petitions from Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

(Used by verbal permission from Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center, Onchiota, NY)

The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

Now our minds are one.

The Waters

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms- waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Now our minds are one.

The Animals

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

Now our minds are one.

The Trees

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Trees of Life.

Now our minds are one.

The Four Winds

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

Now our minds are one.

The Sun

We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest Brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

Now our minds are one.

The Creator

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, our Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

Closing Words

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

Now our minds are one.

Stanza 3: "Your cross+currents flow to new creation"



May roam-ers of the plain, re - freshed by cleans-ing rain, find for-age warmed by
sun-light's ra-diant beams. May crea-tures, great and small, still doomed by hu-man fall, seek
cool, re - fresh-ing wa-ters by clear streams. O, shep-herd of the fold, your cleans-ing
love may we be-hold. Your cross-cur-rents flow to new cre-a-tion.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Great Spirit, Creator of the Universe,
For the Water Protectors, courageously guarding your streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans,

We give you thanks. We praise your names.

For protectors of majestic trees and vast open spaces, keeping watch over forests and jungles,
plains and tundras, deserts and wetlands, glaciers and ice-caps,

We give you thanks. We look with reverence and awe on the splendor of your creation.

For the health of villages, towns, and cities, farms and ranches, parks and preserves, wilderness
and metropolis,

We turn to you, Shepherd of the Fold, to seek your protection.

For all life on this earth that has gone before us, dwells with us, and will proceed after us,

We sing your praises with old songs and new, songs of our ancestors and songs for our children. We join the songs of the birds and the music of the spheres.

We sing our *cancion nueva*, our *wimbo mpyes*. We sing a new song.

Let us sing our *cancion nueva*, our *wimbo mpyes*, a new song to the Holy One.

Part IV

Proclaim: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Refrain 4 (Spanish and Swahili)

CALL RESPONSE CALL

Can we sing a new song? Can we sing a new song? How

RESPONSE CALL RESPONSE

can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song? Can-ci-on nue-va, Can-ci-on nue-va,

CALL RESPONSE ALL

Wim-bo m-py - es, Wim-bo m-py - es. How can the earth sing prai-ses to the Ho-ly One?

Reading: Revelation 22:1-6

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship the Divine; they will see God's face, and God's name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Holy One will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

And the angel said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true, for the Holy One, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent me to show you what must soon take place.'

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Stanza 4: "Show us the arcs that lead to renewed creation"



Let ce-dars raise their voice, from soar-ing heights re-joice, while lof-ty dwel-lers
o'er their branch-es fly. Let fau-na on the ground with joy-ful hearts re-bound, and
all land teem with life from soil to sky. Re-deem-er of the earth, you give the
pro-mise of re-birth. Show us the arcs that lead to re-newed cre-a-tion.

Prayers for the Waters of Baptism and Renewal

Let us pray that God's promises come soon;

let us pray for the healing of the nations and the well-being of all creation.

I invite you to take the strip of cloth that was draped on the pew in front of you.

Hold it in your hands.

Scoop and pour water with hand:

Standing in the waters of baptism, breathe deeply of the Spirit of God.

Alight with a righteous blaze of anger,

exhale a prayer of reconciliation for the nations of the world; for Earth.

Flood your cloth with Divine Love.

Scoop and pour water with hand:

Wading in the waters of creation,

breathe deeply of the Presence of God.

Burning with a prophetic fire of expectation,

exhale a prayer of reparation for the nations of the world; for the planet.

Saturate your cloth with Holy Hope.

Scoop and pour water with hand:

Splashing in the waters of the cosmos, breathe deeply of the Heart of God.

Infused with a warming blaze of peace,

exhale a prayer of renewal for the nations of the world; for all creation.

Drench your cloth with Sacred Grace.

I invite you to breathe in deeply.

As you exhale, let the Spirit's AMEN move over your cloth.

So may it be.

So may it be.

During the Final Refrain come forward to tie your prayer cloth on the Tree of Life, the Baptismal Font, or the Table of Grace.

Final Refrain (Latin and English)

Musical score for the Final Refrain (Latin and English). The score is written in 4/4 time and features a call-and-response structure. The lyrics are: "Can we sing a new song? Can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song? Can-ti-cum no-vum, Can-ti-cum no-vum. Sing a new song. Sing a new song. Now let all the earth sing praises to the Ho-ly One!"

Benediction & Dismissal

Blessed, baptized, beloved Children of God,
here water holds our grief and lament;
here water washes our brokenness and pain;
here water cleanses and renews;
here water thrills and refreshes.
Go, now, into the turbulent, troubled, good creation.
Remember these waters as you hold nature's sorrow.
Remember these waters as you heal earth's hurts.
Remember these waters as you restore wellsprings of life.
Remember these waters as you rejoice with all this beautiful world.
Go, now, in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Musicians

Rachel Wyffels and Michael Fuchs, Cantors
Levi LaGregg, Flute
Karen Sande, Organ
Paul Jacobson, Piano and Composer

Worship and Music Planning Team

Rev. Dianne Loufman
Rev. Emily Meyer
Rachel Wyffels
Paul Jacobson

Full Score

New Song (based on Psalm 96)

Text and music: Paul Jacobson

CALL RESPONSE CALL

1. Can we sing a new song? Can we sing a new song? How
 2. Can we sing a new song?
 3. Can we sing a new song?
 4. Can we sing a new song?
 5. Can we sing a new song?

Piano

Organ

5 RESPONSE CALL RESPONSE

can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song?

Can - ti - cum no - vum, Sher - ha - dash, Tar -
 Osh - ki - mo - win, Osh - ki - mo - win,
 Can - ci - on nue - va, Can - ci - on nue - va,
 Can - ti - cum no - vum, Can - ti - cum no - vum,

9 CALL RESPONSE 1. ALL

Can - ti - cum no - vum, Can - ti - cum no - vum. How can the earth sing new songs to the Ho - ly One?
 nec - mah zhe - dee - dah, Tar - nec - mah zhe - dee - dah.
 O - lo - wan, O - lo - wan.
 Wim - bo M - py - es, Wim - bo M - py - es.
 Sing a new song, Sing a new song.

14 2.

14 Now let all the earth sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One.

19 How can the heav'ns re - joice and ring with an - gel voice when tox - ic clouds are
Where shall your crea - tures seek safe - har - bor from the deep, where now Le - vi - a -
May roam - ers of the plain, re - freshed by cleans - ing rain find for - age warmed by
Let ce - dars raise their voice, from soar - ing heights re - joice, while lof - ty dwel - lers

23 hov' - ring o - ver plains? How can the earth re - sound and new life
thans in dan - ger thrash? Shall sea - life shore to shore swim free in
sun - light's ra - dian beams. May crea - tures, great and small, still doomed by
o'er their branch - es fly. Let fau - na on the ground with joy - ful

27

bless the ground on plan - et plagued by rag - ing flood and
 o - cean's roar where co - rals die and waves are choked with
 hu - man fall, seek cool, re - fresh ing ters by soil clear
 hearts re - bound, and all land teem with life from to

30

flame? O Sa - vior, en - ter in, in - to a world weighed down by sin.
 trash? Cre - a - tor of the sea, from fa - tal de - luge set us free.
 streams. O, shep - herd of the fold, your cleans - ing love may we be - hold.
 sky. Re - deem - er of the earth, you give the prom - ise of re - birth.

33

Show us the way to care for your cre - a - tion.
 Show us the rain - bow, pro - mise to cre - a - tion.
 Your cross - cur - rents flow to new cre - a - tion.
 Show us the arcs that lead to re - newed cre - a - tion.

Congregation Score

New Song (based on Psalm 96)

Text and music: Paul Jacobson

2 **CALL** **RESPONSE** **CALL**

1. Can we sing a new song? Can we sing a new song? How
 2. Can we sing a new song?
 3. Can we sing a new song?
 4. Can we sing a new song?
 5. Can we sing a new song?

5 **RESPONSE** **CALL** **RESPONSE**

can we sing a new song? How can we sing a new song? Can - ti - cum no - vum, Can - ti - cum no - vum,
 Sher ha - dash, Sher ha - dash, Tar -
 Osh - ki - mo - win, Osh - ki - mo - win,
 Can - ci - on nue - va, Can - ci - on nue - va,
 Can - ti - cum no - vum, Can - ti - cum no - vum,

9 **CALL** **RESPONSE** **1. ALL**

Can - ti - cum no - vum, Can - ti - cum no - vum. How can the earth sing new songs to the Ho - ly One?
 nee - mah zhe - dee - dah, Tar - nee - mah zhe - dee - dah.
 O lo - wan, O lo - wan.
 Wim - bo M - py - es, Wim - bo M - py - es.
 Sing a new song, Sing a new song.

14 **2. Final** **2**

Now let all the earth sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One.

19

How can the heav'ns re - joice and ring with an - gel voice when tox - ic clouds are
 Where shall your crea - tures seek safe har - bor from the deep, where now Le - vi - a -
 May roam - ers of the plain, re - freshed by cleans - ing rain find for - age warmed by
 Let ce - dars raise their voice, from soar - ing heights re - joice, while lof - ty dwell - ers

23

hov' - ring o - ver plains? How can the earth re - sound and new life
 thans in dan - ger thrash? Shall sea - life shore to shore swim free in
 sun - light's ra - dian beams. May sea - life shore and small, still doomed by
 o'er their branch - es fly. Let fau - na on the ground with joy - ful

27

bless the ground on plan - et plagued by rag - ing flood and
 o - cean's roar where co - rals die and waves are choked with
 hu - man fall, seek cool, re - fresh - ing wa - ters by clear
 hearts re - bound, and all land teem with life from soil to

30

flame? O Sa - vior, en - ter in, in - to a world weighed down by sin.
 trash? Cre - a - tor of the sea, from fa - tal de - luge set us free.
 streams. O, shep - herd of the fold, your cleans - ing love may be - hold.
 sky. Re - deem - er of the earth, you give the prom - ise of re - birth.

33

Show us the way to care for your cre - a - tion.
 Show us the rain - to bow, pro - mise to cre - a - tion.
 Your cross - cur - rents that flow to new cre - a - tion.
 Show us the arcs that lead to re - newed cre - a - tion.



SENDING

Creator of our wondrous world, be with us as we depart.

Remain with us as we all follow our own paths.

Blessed are you, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Heaven and Earth praise your holy name.

Blessed are you, Creator of mountains and the deep.

Forests and field, land and sea, mountains and valley echo with your praises.

Blessed are you, who fills your creation with life.

All life on earth rejoices in your presence.

Blessed are we, your creatures great and small.

**We your people, together with all that on earth do dwell,
raise our voices in thanksgiving.**

We give thanks for wisdom shared in our gathering today:

We give thanks for (we name gifts of learning from the day)

We give thanks for arcs we are learning to build toward a renewed and restored creation.

We give thanks for (we name inspirations from our arc-building groups)

Let us go out into your beautiful creation, inspired and empowered to build new arcs.

Grant us hope and courage to form arcs to a renewed and restored creation.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Sending Hymn: *When You Send Forth Your Spirit* (same Hymn as opening)

ACS 945

When you send forth your Spirit, we are renewed, we are renewed.

When you send forth your Spirit, we are renewed, we are renewed.

Manifold your works, O God of might;
Maker of the earth, the air, the light.
Waters great and wide and all therein,
Creatures that abide, let life begin.
(Refrain repeated)

**Manifold your works, O God of might;
Maker of the earth, the air, the light.
Waters great and wide and all therein,
Creatures that abide, let life begin.**

Go forth renewed, full of the Spirit of all creation.

Let us go forth to build arcs in God's creation. Thanks be to God!

Thank you to our Host Church

A special thank you to First Lutheran Church for hosting the Summit and to the members who have helped make this possible.

Hospitality Coordinator

John Sippola

Custodians

*Carl Guldner
Duane Sieger*

Childcare

*Benjamin & Angela Blais
Tyler Johnson*

A/V Tech

*Bryan Gatten
Ed Gatten*

Lunch Servers

*Jane Miller
Trent Wickman
Tim LaMaster
Carlene Sippola*

Pollinator Plot & Exhibit Table

*Kim Wickman
Jacob Warren (Eagle Scout Project)
Wilmer Roballo (Duluth Driftwood Art)*

Pastor

Dianne Loufmann

Reception hosts

*Carlene Sippola
Sally Goodman
Tim LaMaster*

Music Director

Karen Sande



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SYNOD TEAM VOLUNTEERS



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helping with today's Summit.**

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