

Possibly watch a video

The Majestic Plastic Bag – A Mockumentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLgh9h2ePYw>



Tools For Creation Care: What Our Church, Synod, and Congregations have done, are doing, and can do in the Future

***Members of the SPAS Care of Creation Workgroup,
Toolkit 2024***

Prayer
God's Creatures Are Our Teachers
by Sarah Bauer

Lord, may I be like a cat, always seeking comfort in and eager to be fed by your Holy Spirit.

May I be like a dog, happiest when I'm walking by your side.

May I be like an owl, able to look back at what's behind me while keeping my feet forward.

**May I be like a snake, shedding its old skin, ridding myself of what no longer serves you,
and what no longer represents who I am.**

May I be like a coyote, howling your praises through the night,

And may I be like a chicken, crowing your praise from the crack of dawn.

May I be like a pig, unashamed to show the unclean parts of myself, knowing I'm still loved by you.

May I be like the ants, working in community for the sake of all who need food.

May I be like the birds, and love the parts of myself, both inside and out, that make me uniquely me.

Lord, may I always be a student of your creation, finding the ways you marked every creature of this world with your love. You gave to us the responsibility of dominion. May we treat this world and all inhabitants of it in a way that brings honor to you.

Amen.

Introduction of Today's Presenters

Diane Jacobson

Paul Jacobson

Rachel Wyffels

Tammy Walhof

Kris Grangaard

Supports

ELCA

- A Social Message on...Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice (1993)
- A Social Statement on...Earth's Climate Crisis (2023)
- Churchwide Assembly Action...CA22.04.25 (2022)
- ELCA Advocacy → Lutheran Advocacy - MN

(www.elca.org Search “Social Statements” or “Social Messages”)

Supports

Lutherans Restoring Creation

- Aligned with ELCA, not connected
- Created Congregational Covenant with Creation
- Spun off Climate Advocacy/Just Response Team “helping the ELCA embody and practice climate care”

(www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org)

Resources galore. Sermons, liturgies, stories, monthly topic webinars and sharing...

Resources

More later, but first!

SPAS Care of Creation Work Group Communication
spasynodELCAcareforcreation@googlegroups.com

Kris Grangaard

Pilgrims Caring for Creation, Pilgrim Lutheran, Saint Paul
Care of Creation Work Group, Saint Paul

Email Kris, ktbd4@comcast.net or call 651-238-3878, for invitation, or sign up at our Care of Creation table, in lobby.

SPAS Care of Creation Work Group



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.

Questions:

- Have you been aware of our work?
- What has been most helpful from our workgroup in your congregational experience?
- What ideas do you have of other things we should be doing?
- Do you want to join the workgroup?

Partnerships across MN and WI



And many more!!!

EcoFaith Website

The screenshot shows the top section of the EcoFaith Network website. At the top left is the EcoFaith logo, followed by the text "The EcoFaith Network" and "NE-MN Synod ELCA with Saint Paul Area Synod Care of Creation". To the right is a circular logo for the "Saint Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group" and a blue "Donate" button. Below this is a navigation menu with links: "Home", "About Us", "Green Blades Rising", "Resources", and "Get Involved". The main banner features a large image of the Earth from space. On the left side of the banner, text reads: "8TH ANNUAL ECOFAITH SUMMIT 2024", "APRIL 6TH 9AM - 4PM", "FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH DULUTH, MN", and "KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LARRY RASMUSSEN". On the right side, it says "APRIL 6TH 9AM - 4PM" and "TO LEARN MORE OR TO REGISTER:" followed by a QR code.

EcoFaith
The EcoFaith Network
NE-MN Synod ELCA with Saint Paul
Area Synod Care of Creation

Saint Paul
Area Synod
Care of
Creation
Work Group

Donate

Home About Us Green Blades Rising Resources Get Involved

8TH ANNUAL
ECOFAITH SUMMIT
2024

APRIL 6TH
9AM - 4PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
DULUTH, MN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
LARRY RASMUSSEN

APRIL
6TH
9AM - 4PM

TO LEARN MORE
OR TO REGISTER:

Starting a Green Team
Theological Resources
Preaching Resources
Climate Resources
EcoFaith Summits
Events
And more!

Green Blades Rising, Our Monthly Newsletter



Stories from Congregations, Weekly Preaching Reflections based on the Lectionary,
Monthly Green Tips, Advocacy Updates, and more.

Subscribe



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

8TH ANNUAL
ECOFAITH SUMMIT
2024

APRIL 6TH
9AM - 4PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
DULUTH, MN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
LARRY RASMUSSEN

CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICIST
AWARD WINNING AUTHOR OF *THE PLANET YOU INHERIT*



APRIL
6TH
9AM - 4PM



TO LEARN MORE
OR TO REGISTER:



<https://ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2024>

CROSS ✦ **CURRENTS IN THE FLOOD**

BUILDING ARCS TOGETHER FOR A LIVABLE PLANET

Afternoon Arc Building Sessions

2:00 – 2:50p.m.

Energy Transitions and the IRA
Building Arcs to Renewable Energy

Graceful Conversations
Building Arcs across Divided Perspectives

Joining the Pollinator Plot
Building a Regional Arc of Pollinator Sanctuaries

Letters to My Body of Water
Rediscovering our Spiritual Arc with Water

3:00 – 3:50p.m.

Building Arcs between Generations
Conversation with the keynote speaker and
Next Generation Respondents

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

Political Advocacy and Action
Building Arcs for Necessary Change

Zero Waste Kids
Building Arcs with Our Youngest Generation

Bret Pence, MNIPL and John Skoug,
Citizens Climate Lobby

Rev. Emily Meyer, Ministry Lab and
Tammy Walhof, Lutheran Advocacy-MN

Tom Uecker and members of the
NE MN Synod Pollinator Project

Sharon Day, Ojibwe Water Walker
Indigenous People's Task Force

Larry Rasmussen, Gigi Calland and
Alyssa Parkhurst

Joy Hensel, Minister of Mental Health
and Rev. Emily Meyer, Ministry Lab

Bret Pence, MNIPL and Tammy
Walhof, Lutheran Advocacy-MN

April Hepokoski, author

**Called to be Advocates
for Justice**

God saw the suffering of the People

Moses, You go to Pharoah.
Tell him:
Let My People Go!



Advocacy at the State Legislature (and Congress)

Lenten Letter Campaign

[illegible]

Advocacy at COP28

(UN International Climate Conference)

Presentation on March 5

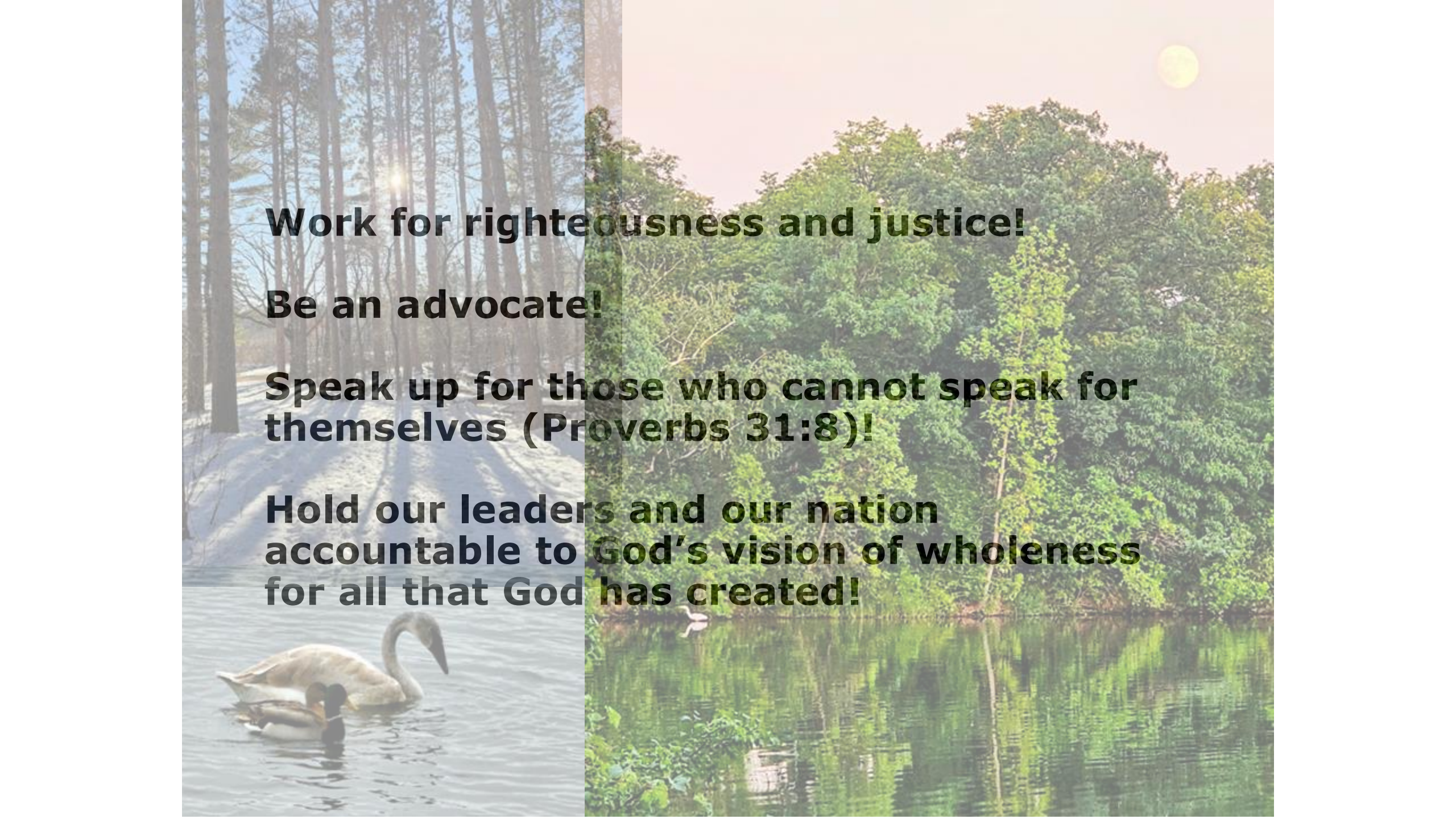
On **Tuesday, March 5th at 7pm**, Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton will host Tammy Walhof, director of Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota, for a presentation on her experience at COP28 in Dubai. Walhof was one of four representatives from the ELCA to attend the climate summit in Dubai.

Faith Stocktake of COP28 UAE. What is missing in climate discussion and action?



LAB AL JEER





Work for righteousness and justice!

Be an advocate!

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8)!

Hold our leaders and our nation accountable to God's vision of wholeness for all that God has created!



Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

tammy@lutheranadvocacymn.org

Cell: 651-238-6506

www.lutheranadvocacymn.org

Care of Creation Work among SPAS Congregations



Joy

Fun

It was a meeting:
me, touching the bark, the tree
just pruned, touching me.

-Carl Samuelson

Work Group and Congregational Resources and Connections

- Google Group: Connecting congregations with similar questions
- Group and members do deep dives into topics: Pollinators, Native Planting, Regenerative Farming, Energy Efficiency and IRA, EV Chargers, Plastics, EcoFaith Summit Themes
- Collecting resources related to those topics, to share
- Connecting starting congregations with ones that are farther along
- Tours of various churches' buildings, grounds
- Connecting congregations with like interests, or to learn together
- Announcements of events and lectures and classes and educational forums

Work Group follows other Organizations, local

- Lutherans Restoring Creation
- Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
- Land Stewardship Council
- Metro Blooms, Blue Thumb, Watershed Districts
- EnerChange and Minify
- Community POWER
- Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)
- Rise and Repair Alliance
- Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN)
- Luther Seminary
- The Ministry Lab
- So many more...

and wider...

- Interfaith Power and Light
- Drawdown
- EcoAmerica | Blessed Tomorrow
- EarthDay.org (Current theme is plastic)
- Laudato Si', Laudate Deum

How are You? Take Your Pick

- What inspires me?
- What worked in my life, in our congregation?
- What didn't work at first?
- Here's how we overcame a challenge...
- Here's the context that worked. Or didn't.
- Here're the people that helped...
- What was a big obstacle?
- What was an incentive?
- Something else??

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