

## CSS Creation Care Plan – 2026



For the past 2 years, the Central States Synod Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table has provided curated monthly resources for Creation Care in the five areas of community faith life: worship, education, buildings and grounds, personal discipleship, and advocacy/public life.

<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>

Our 2026 Plan is a bit different. This year, we highlight some new and/or favorite resources in each of those five areas. You then choose when and how you might use them. We hope this will provide some inspiration for your Creation Care and Climate Justice work, through thought-provoking and creative suggestions.

The resources are endless – which is both wonderful and daunting. We hope our suggestions and our accompaniment will help you as you discern the Spirit’s call as a community of dedicated stewards of Earth and neighbor who proclaim God’s promise of Hope and Healing for all!

Peace,

CSS Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table

### Worship:

- Season of Creation, September 1-October 4: <https://www.nisynod.org/pages/creation-care-subcommittee>, and <https://seasonofcreation.org/>
- Eco-preacher: <https://interfaithsustain.com/ecopreacher-123/>
- Green Lectionary podcast: <https://www.creationjustice.org/green-lectionary-podcast.html>
- Valparaiso Institute of Liturgical Studies, 2026 Institute, “The Feast of Creation – liturgy as Creation groans,” April 13-15, 2026; <https://www.valpo.edu/about/calling-and-spiritual-life/institute-of-liturgical-studies/institute/>
- Creation Justice Ministries will be offering a worship service for Earth Day. More info will be shared through the Synod newsletter as we approach April 22.
- Ponder this: Creation is to be celebrated all the time, not just on Earth Day or with one special service. How does that look in your setting? How might you incorporate Creation every time you worship? Can you worship outdoors?

### Education:

- Book study group utilizing “Building a Moral Economy” book series, especially the second book in the series, “Climate Justice, Climate Hope”  
<https://www.buildingamoraleconomy.org/> - you can sign up for updates
- ELCA Social Message, “Earth’s Climate Crisis,” with discussion Guide  
<https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-messages/climate>
- Learn about food systems, local food, and regenerative agriculture. The PBS special, “Nourish,” includes a curriculum guide at <https://www.nourishlife.org/>
- Subscribe to Katharine Hayhoe’s newsletter for a clear-eyed and hopeful look at climate science and solutions. She is a climate scientist and person of faith. Receive weekly climate updates, good climate news, event information, ideas on things to do and ways to join the conversation. <https://mailchi.mp/fae4224ba66d/subscribe-to-katharine-newsletter>

- Ponder this: What would it look like to invite a farmer to discuss agriculture and food systems? How might you partner with other faith communities for a book discussion group? What is the significance of the ELCA Social Statements and Social Messages for your faith community? How often do you talk about climate change in your community? That's a first step to addressing it.

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

- Native plants. We have an expert in our LRC network. Would you like him to share a presentation with you and your congregation?
- Community Garden – either on your property or in the community. We have a number of models for Community Gardens in our CSS faith communities. Would it be helpful to consult with one of them for your setting?
- Join an emerging movement led by author Robin Wall Kimmerer, “Plant, Baby, Plant,”- a grassroots movement to heal land, build community, and transform love of land into social change. <https://plantbabyplant.com/>
- Energy Audit – Do-It-Yourself resource or professional
- Ponder this: Who are the local growers in your vicinity? How could you connect local food growers and/or community garden produce with hunger needs in your community? How might the financial savings from reducing energy consumption be used for mission?

### **Personal Discipleship:**

- Join an Eco-Challenge with people all around the world through programs that empower individuals to connect their actions to science-based solutions to climate change. Build a team at your faith community to multiply the impact. <https://ecochallenge.org/>
- Discover your climate super-powers by joining “SHIFT: The **S**uper **H**igh-Impact Initiative for **F**ixing Tomorrow” - <https://jointheshift.earth/>
- Check out “A Beautiful Year: 52 Meditations on Faith, Wisdom, and Persistence,” by Diana Butler Bass - <https://dianabutlerbass.com/books/>
- Here's a perennial favorite from 2023: “Eleven Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Emissions” - <file:///G:/My%20Drive/LRC/LRC/2024%20CSS%20Creation%20Care%20Plan/Eleven%20Ways.pdf>
- Ponder this: How might spending 20 minutes in the natural world 2 times a week, without any distractions (phone, earbuds, people, etc.), shift your relationship with Creation? What activities or actions would you like to change? How can you keep yourself accountable?

### **Advocacy/Public Life**

- For Kansas folks, get involved with KIFA – Kansas Interfaith Action - <https://kansasinterfaithaction.org/> Options for involvement include advocacy calls, newsletter, Climate Working Group, rally days at the Capitol
- Coffee with Christine – monthly updates from Christine Moffett, ELCA Advocacy, on federal energy policy and the environment. <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/updates-from-elca-advocacy-re-environment-energy/>
- LRC Connections Calls – join folks from all across the U.S. on monthly calls featuring timely subjects for learning and action: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/connections-calls/> While you're at it, sign up for “Good Green News” from LRC: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/register-to-get-our-good-green-news/>

- Local options – apply to serve on an environmental advisory groups, run for local office, attend County Commission meetings
- Ponder this: Why are we hesitant to talk about climate change in our faith communities? (Check out the [ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life](#)) What is your most pressing concern about climate justice? How can you find common ground, even when perspectives differ?

Finally, be sure to sign up for our CSS-LRC Partnership Newsletter (email Noni Strand at [nonistrand@gmail.com](mailto:nonistrand@gmail.com)), and check out further resources from our 2024 and 2025 CSS Creation Care Plans here on the website.