

## A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

Discuss some ways that you can individually or as a group help:

- Clean up or spruce up the church grounds.
- Clean up or spruce up one of our member's yard.

## A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

Many unbelievers see the Church as being anti-environmental. The Church is accused of being responsible for damaging the earth in a quest for dominion over it. Actually, Christians should be at the forefront of proper usage of the natural resources that God has provided this world. That is nothing more than another component of Christian stewardship.

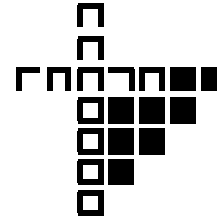
Over the next few weeks plan a project through your group through which you can exercise Christian stewardship of the earth as a testimony and witness to others. Consider the following as possibilities:

- Plant a garden to grow vegetables for people in need.
- Clean up a roadside or a river bed.
- Undertake a recycling project.
- Volunteer at a park or nature center.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Reflect on how your time together tonight has helped you in *Knowing the peace and the power of the Cross*. In your closing prayer please pray for continued unity and growth in outreach at St. Luke.

## Is the Church Going Green?



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Spring, 2010  
Home Group Discussion #1

*The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.*

*Psalm 24:1-2*

### How Does His Garden Grow...

Welcome (back) to Home Group! Home groups provide crucial community for people. We come together to *Know the peace and the power of the Cross* more fully. Throughout the course of the year home groups enjoy various Bible study opportunities, care for and support one another, spend time in ministry, engage with the community... and generally have some good times together!

### **In the next four studies we will do two things.**

**First**, we will consider five key areas of our congregation's life. Each session we will accent:

**Worship:** live to please God

**Fellowship:** be connected into God's family

**Discipleship:** become like Jesus

**Ministry:** serve others

**Evangelism:** share Jesus

**Second**, we will build on the theme *Is the Church Going Green?* As you know, the conversation across our land has gone green. Talk of the environment abounds. Is that conversation foreign to the Church? Should it be? Or is the Church inherently and scripturally green? Let's spend time discussing things that touch on the green conversation.

## A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (connected to one another)

As our home groups resume make sure that everyone in your group knows each other. Take turns sharing:

- What is your favorite spring flower?
- What is your favorite spring time activity?
- What is your least favorite spring time activity?

## A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

The creation in which we live is an awesome place. Consider the creation. Consider *how large* it is as you think about the earth and the universe. Consider *how small* it is as you think about molecules, atoms and other really small things.

**Read Psalm 104.** What does this lead you to praise God for?

Have someone lead the group in prayer.

## A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP (becoming like Jesus)

*“The Kingdom of heaven is like...” Matthew 20:1*

**Object Lessons** Many people find a children’s message in worship more meaningful than “the adults’ sermon.” Children’s messages typically revolve around a concrete object that leads to understanding of certain truths.

Truth be told, adults probably get more out of object lessons than children do because children have not yet learned to think abstractly. “What do you mean? God is like an egg? Don’t eggs break easily?” Adults however thrive on the concrete to abstract path of learning.

Jesus used this method of teaching a lot. A lot! He said, “The Kingdom of heaven is like...”

And a lot of those lessons revolved around gardening and farming. Tonight, as we begin our *Is the Church Going Green?* series we will see what Jesus can teach us through the green process.

**Read Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23.** Discuss the various kinds of ground conditions. What do you learn from them? How are you cautioned by them?

Discuss the “good soil.” In what way do you see this as an ironic term? Many people want to use this passage to insert their own effort in getting saved. How does this passage clearly disallow any room for pride or human effort toward salvation?

**Read Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43.** One of the most troubling issues for people is the presence of evil in the world. People wonder why God would allow the kinds of horror that daily are displayed in the news. How does this passage address that issue? Does that satisfy you?

**Read Matthew 13:31-32.** Does it ever seem to you that too little is happening in and through the Kingdom of God or through our congregation or in your life as a Christian? How might this passage address that concern?

**Read John 15:1-8.** Discuss what Jesus is teaching us about the growth process of a Christian.

**Read John 12:23-26.** What do you know about the seed dying? What does Jesus teach us about himself? How does Jesus invite us to join him? Consider this statement, “The path to fruitful living for a Christian is a life of death.” Why do you think Jesus taught so much from a farming/gardening point of view? Would he do so today?