

A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

Consider this quote by John Muir from a recent sermon. “When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” How does this impact your understanding of Christian stewardship of the earth?

A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

Last week you were challenged to plan a project that exercises stewardship of the earth in a way that serves as a testimony and witness to others.

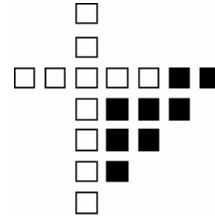
Please continue to think on something like the following:

- 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 #2

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 our current series of studies we are doing 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 (connecting to one another)

As you come together tonight, share with one another some place on earth where God's magnificence has been particularly clear to you.

A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

With all the emphasis that we have had on reading the Bible, we should also take time to meditate and reflect on that reading. Last week you were asked to read Psalm 104.

Please read it again. What do you see that you do not remember seeing before? What particularly strikes you tonight?

Have someone lead the group in prayer.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP (becoming like Jesus)

"The Kingdom of heaven is like..." Matthew 20:1

A Whole World of Object Lessons

Last week we considered a number of parables that were connected with the growing process. Jesus was a master at using what happens in nature to teach us spiritual truths.

Tonight we will consider and reflect on a number of other places in Scripture where God uses what happens in his created world to teach us spiritual truths.

Read Psalm 19:1-3. What have you learned about God from looking at his created world?

Consider each of the following passages and discuss what you learn about God from what we see in the created world.

Read Genesis 22:15-18. What can you learn about God's kingdom by going to the beach or by star gazing?

Read Job 38:1-13. What can you learn about God by looking at the weather channel?

Read Proverbs 6:6-11. What can you learn about God's desire for you by watching ants attack your summer picnic?

Read Isaiah 55:8-11. What can you learn about the wisdom of God by looking up? What can you learn about the power of the word by watching it rain?

Read Matthew 5:43-46. What can you learn about how God wants us to care for others by sitting in the sunshine?

Read Matthew 6:25-34. What can you learn about having food on the table and clothes in the closet by watching birds fly over the fields?

Read John 3:8. What can you learn about how God works by listening to the breeze?

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the created world being a spiritual teacher.

Read Colossians 1:15-20. Consider this statement, "Even as is the practice for Scripture reading, our view of nature must always be Christocentric."