

A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

Spend some time considering how individually or as a group you might help the congregation be a better steward of the earth.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

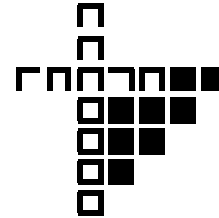
It is crucial for the Christian Church to be engaged in the community. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they might see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven."

Continue working on your project that will serve as a witness to the community that the people of God are engaged in stewardship of the earth.

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 #3

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

Lessons on Worship

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 this evening, share with one another:

- A funny or odd thing you have seen in the Creation.
- An intricate or delicate thing in the Creation.

A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

Again tonight please read Psalm 104. 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 heavens are telling the glory of God...” Psalm 19:1

Lessons in Worship

Worship is integral to our relationship with God. Talk about your worship life.

Think about Sunday worship.

- How do you prepare for Sunday morning worship?
- Why do you worship?
- What is the most joyous part of Sunday morning worship?
- What is the most helpful part of Sunday morning worship?
- What is the most difficult part of Sunday morning worship?

Think about daily worship.

- How do you worship daily?
- What components of worship (prayer, praise, confession, Bible reading, offerings, etc.) do you use daily?
- Why do you worship?

During our spring home group sessions we have focused on God’s creation, what we can learn from it, how we relate to it, how we are called to care for it. Tonight we will examine the worship *by* the earth.

Read (again) Psalm 19:1-3. In what sense are the heavens and skies worshipping the LORD? What can you learn about worship by considering how the heavens and the skies worship?

Read Isaiah 55:12-13. In what sense are the mountains, hills and trees worshipping the LORD? What can you learn about worship by considering how the mountains and hills and trees worship?

Read Revelation 5:13 and Job 12:7-10. In what sense are all the creatures on the land, in the air and under the sea worshipping the LORD? What can you learn about worship by considering how such creatures worship?

Consider this statement, “The human race must guard against a worshipping *of* the earth and focus instead on worshipping *with* the earth.” What does that mean?

How does this change your view of the care of the earth? If the earth and all that is in it worships God, what changes might you consider in order to assist the earth in its worship?

Spend some time discussing what life would be like if we lived every moment in nature as if we were in the LORD’s sanctuary. What can you learn from how you “behave” in Sunday worship that would help you to “behave” better in God’s other sanctuary, the created world? *Why* do you behave in the sanctuary the way you do? How does that connect to how you live in nature?