

A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

Discuss what you can do to encourage other Christians in the congregation and beyond to be more careful in the use and care of the natural resources God has entrusted to us.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

Make sure that you finish your environmentally friendly project that focuses you on being out in the **COMMUNITY** for Jesus.

We would like to hear your story and see your pictures. Please pass them on to the church office

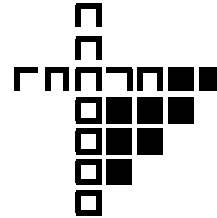
LET THE SUMMER BEGIN

As the summer begins, home groups do not end. Make plans to stay connected with your home group several times over the summer months.

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 #4

*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*

A Call to Stewardship

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 place you hope to visit this summer to enjoy God's creation.
- An experience of pollution that disturbed you.

A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

One more time read Psalm 104. What about this Psalm moves you to a spirit of worship?

Have someone lead the group in prayer.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP (becoming like Jesus)

Wait for the LORD and keep his way... Psalm 37:34

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Much has been said and much has been done to help people be more environmentally conscious. How do you react to the "environmental message?" Do you resist it? Do you embrace it? What parts of it make sense? What parts of it don't? (Try to keep this from devolving into political rants.)

One organization writes the following:

Christians for Environmental Stewardship is dedicated to reaching the Evangelical and Conservative Christian churches with a scriptural message of environmental stewardship. We measure our stewardship by healthy ecosystems and sustainable, responsible consumption. We are calling on all Christians to search the scriptures to better understand the heart of God in relation to His creation. The Bible says that God expects, even demands, that we be stewards of His creation. Scripture is undisputable. God created the different species of plants and animals, blessed them, protected them and made a covenant with them.

Every time we, as humans, drive a species to extinction, we are stating that what God created, we can destroy. There is no scripture to support that view. Every time a species goes extinct, we are defaulting on the account that God has called us to manage. We are at the crossroads, able to choose to save or to destroy. It is our choice. The Bible is clear that creation expresses God's wisdom and power. Christians are called to be stewards, to nurture, to protect, to preserve His creation.

Do you agree or disagree?

Four Reasons Christians Should be Environmentally Concerned

Please read each of the following and discuss what motivates you to be better stewards of the earth.

Read Genesis 1:26 and Leviticus 25:23-24.

Reason I: God told us to take care of his earth. He has given that responsibility to the human race.

Read Luke 15:13-16 and Isaiah 24:4-6.

Reason II: We bring unnecessary trouble upon ourselves through foolish extravagance and careless living

Read Luke 12:13-23 and I Timothy 6:6-10.

Reason III: Christians are free to carefully use the things of the world because they are filled with contentment.

Read Matthew 5:13-16

Reason IV: Because the many unchurched people are very environmentally concerned, we want our behavior to draw them to not repel them from Jesus.

What changes in conviction or action have been prompted by our last four sessions?