

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CARE FOR CREATION ACTION PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

By action of the church council on July 17, 2007, a motion was approved that Trinity Lutheran Church would adopt a Care for Creation covenant accepting congregational responsibility to be stewards of the earth; for council to encourage each committee of the congregation to actively promote ecological justice for the earth and the community; and for each committee to create a one, three, and five year plan. As part of that covenant the Care for Creation team will provide leadership and support, working with the committees to develop and implement action plans.

The purpose of the action plan is to be a way of documenting our goals throughout the life of the congregation. It will be a way to hold ourselves accountable to the implementation of our goals. This is a starting point and will be a fluid and evolving document as the Care for Creation philosophy takes hold and works through our congregation to intentionally work toward healing creation and promoting ecological justice for earth and community. The Care for Creation team will evaluate the implementation of the action items set by the various committees annually, will celebrate the accomplishments, and will keep the council and congregation appraised of the successes and challenges.

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

**Committee chairperson: Paul Roskres**

**Care for Creation Team Liaison: Dru Spitzer**

### **1 year plan (9/2008-8/2009)**

- Separate recyclables from other garbage.
- Have a free energy audit from the local power company (completed June 13, 2008).
- Use cleaning products that are environmentally friendly.
- In the winter use calcium chloride for salting down the icy areas instead of sodium chloride.
- Change hallway lighting that is on all-night and controlled by a timer, to compact florescent.
- Change lighting in Great Hall, which uses some of the highest wattage incandescent bulbs, to compact florescent bulbs, as well as washing of the light diffuser and inside reflective surfaces.
- Continue the use of energy efficient compact florescent light bulbs where they have already replaced the incandescent bulbs.
- Reprogram the building heat in each zone for a reduction in temperature by a degree or two, and change the amount of time the increased temperature stays on at the usage times.
- Already made the change last fall of a couple degrees cooler. Another cut will be done this next heating season.
- Start the heating plant (boilers) a little later in the season (even by a week) than it has been done in the past.
- Turn off the heating plant (boilers) just short of the heating season.
- Change the thermostat in the sanctuary balcony area, which separately controls the heating for the balcony and pipe organ, to a programmable type instead of the manual one that is used now.

### **3 year plan (by 8/2011)**

- Organize the building's usage so that only parts of it have to have elevated heating. The example is that committees, groups, or organizations meet on a given night and only in a certain area that that the whole building isn't warmed for each committee to meet each night of the week.
- Change the three outside lighting timers from the mechanical to programmable type that will automatically adjust for the sunset and daylight savings time.
- Change the florescent lighting in the office. The fixtures can be retrofitted to use energy efficient ballasts and T8 light tube.
- Change the EXIT signs to the highly efficient LED type.
- Replace old toilets with new ones that only use 1.6 gallons per flush. Some of the existing units are the five gallons per flush type.
- Begin planning for insulating the building.

### **5 year plan (by 8/2013)**

- Implement a well-organized plan to insulate the building.

## **WITNESS COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

**Committee chairperson: Sheri Villers**  
**Care for Creation Team Liaison: Sheri Villers**

### **1 year plan (9/2008-8/2009)**

- Have vegetarian/local food potluck.

### **3 year plan (by 8/2011)**

- Help fund a new energy star dishwasher to wash mugs from the Coffee and Fellowship hour.
- Book club/study group with an environmental focus

### **5 year plan (by 8/2013)**

- Annual speakers and/or movies presentations with an environmental focus
- Environmental community project – possibly in conjunction with the Youth committee (examples: beach clean up, community garden)

## **LEARNING COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

**Committee chairperson: Nancy Nance**  
**Care for Creation Team Liaison: Dru Spitzer**

### **1year plan (9/2008-8/2011)**

- Recycle paper in all Sunday School classrooms.
- Recycle plastic, glass, and aluminum in Sunday School common areas.
- Save large pieces of scrap paper and reuse.
- Reduce handouts by giving out one per family.
- Last teacher to leave any given area will turn out the lights.
- Reduce use of craft foam and wax crayons.
- The library will continue to accept appropriate “gently used” books, CDs, and DVDs.
- Provide tips and devotions from Stewardship of Creation: A Thirty Day Discipline monthly in the Tidings.

### **3 year plan (by 8/2011)**

- As funds are available library will purchase “care” resources.
- Cooperate with Witness committee to offer movies such as An Inconvenient Truth and family or intergenerational movies or activities with an environmental theme.
- Offer forums on the environmental state of the world, dynamics of ecological justice, and/or biblical/theological traditions showing God’s love for creation.

### **5 year plan (by 8/2013)**

- Adopt a Sunday School service project with focus on the environment.
- Offer adult and/or youth book studies on environmental issues.

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

**Committee chairperson: Jeff Haines**

**Care for Creation Team Liaison: Jay Labeledz**

### **1 year plan (9/2008-8/2009)**

- Youth to participate in Earth Friendly service project  
Ideas include:
  - Fall clean up for seniors or church neighbors
  - Volunteer at Field of Dreams
  - Start sneaker recycling program
  - Beach or Chiwaukee Prairie clean up

### **3 year plan (by 8/2011)**

- Sponsor/obtain a bicycle rack for the church.
- Encourage a “ride bike to church” Sunday.

### **5 year plan (by 8/2013)**

- Adopt a plot at Field of Dreams.
- Develop a Youth Green Team.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

**Committee chairperson: Fred Haerter**

**Care for Creation Team Liaison: Jay Labeledz**

### **1 year plan (9/2008-8/2009)**

- Blessing of the Animals annual service
- Pray regularly for stewardship of God’s creation in worship prayers.
- Use Eco palms on Palm Sunday.

### **3 year plan (by 8/2011)**

- Coordinate the use of baked bread for communion.
- Explore the use of local wine.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

**Committee chairperson: Janice Dupont**  
**Care for Creation Team Liaison: Laurie Christman**

### **1 year plan (9/2008-8/2009)**

- Cooperate with a scout troop to coordinate a monthly aluminum can collection.
- Provide large plastic containers for this purpose to be kept in the garbage space on the side of the building until filled.
- As the cans are filled, a member of the committee will bring them to the recycling center.

### **3 year plan (by 8/2011)**

- Continue aluminum recycling and add extra containers for the recycling of plastic, glass, and newspaper.

### **5 year plan (by 8/2013)**

- Recycling program should be up and running with full participation from the congregation.

## **CARE FOR CREATION TEAM ACTION PLAN**

**Team coordinator: Dru Spitzer**  
**Team members: Laurie Christman, Jay Labedz, Sheri Villers**

### **1 year plan (9/2008-8/2009)**

- Improve awareness and encourage use of bins for recyclable waste throughout the church facility.
- Use church glassware, plates, and utensils rather than disposable products for Sunday fellowship hour and encourage their use for all church events.
- Eliminate all use of Styrofoam products. Where it is impractical to use “real” dishes, promote the use of paper rather than Styrofoam.

### **3 year plan (by 8/2011)**

- Use church’s glassware, plates, and utensils exclusively for all church events, eliminating the use of disposable products.

### **5 year plan (by 8/2013)**

- Research the possibility of purchasing a new energy-star dishwasher for the Great Hall kitchen.
- Facilitate individual members of the congregation entering into personal covenants with creation.