

MANAGING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

GOD'S CREATION - OUR CARE - EVERY DAY

April - Protect

*Throughout the land that you hold,
you shall provide for the redemption of the land.*

Leviticus 25:24

*You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet.*

Psalm 8:6

On Sunday, April 22 of this year we will recognize Earth Day. "Stewardship of the Earth" is the theme for this quarter. We are all stewards of the earth. It is our job to find ways, big or small, that will protect what God has given us. We also need to stop the harm that is being done to our earth.

We can all do the small things. We can recycle cans and newspapers. We can carpool to events to cut back on gas emissions. We can be mindful of our use of electricity and water. We can participate in our Synod's efforts to stop using foam cups and plates.

Do you or does your congregation have a recycling plan? If not, try starting a recycling program.

Discuss, with family, friends and neighbors, ways to protect our lakes and rivers. Open the discussion using the subject of lawn fertilizers and weed killers.



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May - Grow

The Lord took man and put him in the garden of Eden to till and keep it.

Genesis 2:15

A time to plant, a time to harvest. . . Ecclesiastes 3:2b

People have been farming and growing plants since the beginning of time. As Christians, we engage in conversation with our brothers and sisters who work the land to become more conscious of our food sources and the resources that it takes to produce and deliver them to us.

Growing a few veggies in a small garden or even in a pot will cut down on plastic packaging and gas emissions produced in the transportation of food to table. A garden is also a good place to get some exercise, gain better nutrition and reduce stress by reconnecting with nature. Share your abundance with family and friends. The gift of fresh produce is greatly appreciated, especially at local food pantries.

If you garden, do you have a compost pile? Composting is easy and a good way to dispose of fruit, vegetable peelings and egg shells.

Find out who else in your congregation gardens. Trading gardening tips and techniques can help to grow new friendships.



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June - Conserve

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

There are many ways we can conserve our Earth's resources and assets. On a personal level, it may take a little thinking, time and effort to figure out what you can really do to save our planet.

You can read about and inform yourself about local issues. An area issue may be as simple as not transporting firewood from one site to another. This protects and saves our forests and tree lots from harmful insects and fungi. If you are in an area experiencing a drought, learn ways to save grey water to use on plants and shrubs. Find out what the issues are in your community.

No more "shop till you drop." This thinking and practice wastes so many of our assets and resources.

Now might be a good time to ask ourselves if we, as individuals, families and congregations are being good stewards of the earth?

What are you doing to protect, grow and conserve?



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