

Congregational Care-for-Creation Covenant

As a community of faith, we affirm God's creation in all its beauty. We acknowledge God as the source of all, Christ as the redeemer of all, and the Spirit as the sustainer of all. We strive to respect all of creation as sacred and accept our responsibility to live justly with our neighbors in ways that all may thrive together.



Land Acknowledgement

As we gather with friends, allies, and those we may not yet know, we acknowledge that the land traditionally known as De Jope, which means four lakes, is part of who we are and reflects our history. Wisconsin is the homeland of 12 First Nations, including the Ho-Chunk people, who have lived in the Madison area for thousands of years, contributing in many ways to our region.

As Christian European immigrants, we acknowledge our part in the history of systematic destruction and displacement of Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the ongoing systems of harm, toward our indigenous siblings and toward the land, that are perpetuated throughout our neighborhood, our state, and the world today. We, Messiah Lutheran Church, are committed to protecting and honoring the history and people of this area, working toward healing and justice with our local indigenous communities, and living as stewards and caregivers for the land and water.

Educate

Education: We seek to learn about the biblical, theological, and ecclesial traditions concerning creation. We seek to learn about the degradations of creation due to human activity, exploitation, and oppression. We seek to understand how we are implicated in these matters, and what we can do to heal and restore creation for future generations.

Worship: We seek to worship in a manner that shows our gratitude and praise to God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer. We commit to glorifying God intentionally together with all creation. In worship, we will celebrate creation, confess our sin against it, grieve its losses, and commit ourselves to the care of the earth.

Affiliate

Public Ministry: We seek to change the systems that degrade creation and to rectify the injustices that result from it. We seek to alert our members to environmental legislation that protects creation and to encourage their active participation in the development of public policy. We encourage members to engage in civic activities that foster ecological health.

Because we desire to leave the earth a better place for our children, we will promote love and respect for creation among our youth, teach them responsible Earth practices, and engage them in projects that restore creation. We will pursue this mission in a grace-filled manner, seeking to find hope and joy in the commitments and sacrifices these provisions may entail and in the restorations they engender. We seek to let our care for creation be known to others.

Donate

Building and Grounds: We agree to assess the impact that our activities and maintenance of our property have upon creation: energy and water use, cleaning products, lawn care, paper use, food choices, recycling and waste, and transportation. We will strive to make choices that lessen our negative impact on the earth and that serve to renew and restore Earth's community.

Discipleship at Home and Work: We will encourage individual members of this congregation to care for creation in their lifestyle, in their homes, and at their work, fostering a closer relationship with the land so that we can live in deeper harmony with the earth.

Signatures of Pastors: Name: _____ Name: _____

Signatures of Church Council: _____ Date: _____