

Tips for Caring for Creation “WATER, SOIL, AIR, PLANTS AND ANIMALS”

WATER

- ◆ Eliminate contaminants from the water supply: Refrain from disposing of oils/grease and medications down the drain.
- ◆ Reduce the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- ◆ Conserve water by only running dishwashers in full loads.
- ◆ Conserve water by turning off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ◆ Water lawns and plants only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.



SOIL

- ◆ Limit your consumption of new consumer goods – look to repair or buy used items.
- ◆ Use less plastics. Plastic waste is clogging up landfills and oceans around the world.
- ◆ Help to stop deforestation by reducing your use of paper products.
- ◆ Recycle as much as you can to reduce what goes in landfills.
- ◆ Purchase organic produce to lessen use of those fertilizers and pesticides that contribute to land pollution.



AIR

- ◆ Walk, bike or use public transportation more often. Or at least try to eliminate unnecessary/redundant trips in your car. And while waiting, do not idle your car engine – turn it off.
- ◆ Increase the energy efficiency of your home. Use LED lighting and schedule an energy audit through local utility companies.
- ◆ Eat local and organic produce – and eat less meat.
- ◆ Dress for the weather and adjust layers before adjusting the thermostat.
- ◆ Keep indoor plants to metabolize air pollutants from indoor spaces as well as refresh air by removing carbon dioxide and replenishing oxygen levels.



GSLC Caring for Creation Small Group is a group here at Good Shepherd called to care for creation. We meet monthly, usually the second week of the month and would love to have you join us!

PLANTS

- ◆ Give pollinators an extra boost in your backyard by: reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides, providing nectar sources by planting a variety of wildflowers and native plants that will bloom throughout the season, leaving logs and rocks in your yard or build bee boxes for native bees to make their home.
- ◆ Save trees by using paper wisely: Use both sides of the paper, recycled paper, and cloth napkins.
- ◆ Borrow, share and donate books.
- ◆ Stay on the trails - when you visit the forest, stay on marked trails. This will minimize your impact on wilderness areas, preserving them for future generations.
- ◆ Compost to enrich the soil, help retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.



ANIMALS

- ◆ Buy sustainable products to preserve habitat.
- ◆ Recycle your cell phones, because a mineral used in electronic production is mined in gorilla habitat.
- ◆ Don't use palm oil because forests where tigers live are being cut down to plant palm plantations.
- ◆ Grow native plants to provide food and shelter for native wildlife.
- ◆ Black out the Black Market. Sometimes when we travel, we don't realize that the souvenirs we are buying are under threat. Avoid supporting the market in illegal wildlife including: tortoise-shell, ivory, and coral.



OTHER RESOURCES

“Green Team” SE Synod–Facebook Page

Lutherans Restoring Creation (<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org>) is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA.

ELCA Advocacy (<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy>) works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States.

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GiPL) (<http://www.gipl.org>) equips faith communities across the state of Georgia to care for creation through worship, education, and the stewardship of our natural resources.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org>) is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.