

CREATION CARE AMBASSADORS

SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH WITH KNOWLEDGE, HANDS-ON
EXPERIENCE AND RESOURCES TO SPEAK AND ACT CONFIDENTLY
ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOLUTIONS



Lutherans are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society. As Lutheran Christians, we embrace the vision of God's intention for creation and for humanity as creation's caregivers, but we are growing more and more concerned about climate change as we witness its impact on our health, livelihoods and communities, especially as these exacerbate existing racial, social and economic injustices. We see the “despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God’s gracious gift of creation,” as stated in the ELCA social statement *Caring for Creation: Faith, Hope, and Justice* (p. 2).

“Given the power of sin and evil in this world, as well as the complexity of environmental problems, we know we can find no ‘quick fix’ — whether technological, economic, or spiritual. A sustainable environment requires a sustained effort from everyone” (p. 12). As individuals and as church together, we seek innovative and collaborative means to address climate change and find solutions.

The Creation Care Ambassadors program is an adaptation of an ecoAmerica initiative, facilitated in collaboration between the ELCA and ecoAmerica’s Blessed Tomorrow program along with Lutherans Restoring Creation. Creation Care Ambassadors are trained, supported and connected with opportunities. The Creation Care Ambassadors program makes connections between faith and climate and highlights actions that ELCA congregations can take now to help protect families and communities while also ensuring a prosperous, just, secure and resilient future. The program equips Lutherans to be leaders in settings across the church and in our communities.



Becoming climate literate

How is the ELCA involved in creation care?

Many ELCA ministries are active in creation care activity, and in late 2019 the ELCA established a Sustainability Table to synergize efforts with representation from ELCA Advocacy, Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Response, Racial Justice Ministries, Stewardship, Young Adult Ministry, synods, congregations and others. The table holistically pulls together the ELCA's creation care efforts, strategies and activities to make us more effective stewards of creation.



Relate climate to faith

Among the goals established by the ELCA's Future Direction 2025 paper are enhancing leadership development and increasing congregational vitality. The table advances these goals and promotes justice through inclusive participation and an emphasis on sufficiency and sustainability.

Trained Creation Care Ambassadors have important roles in the work of the table and in the ELCA as we reclaim and act on Christians' responsibility to be stewards of creation along with all neighbors.



Elevate your voice within your faith community

Additional information about ELCA environment activity, particularly through collaboration with Blessed Tomorrow, can be found at <https://elca.org/environment>, including "Moving Forward: A Guide to Climate Action for Your Congregation and Community." Resources can also be found at <https://elca.org/resources/advocacy>, such as "Why Lutherans Care for Creation: Building on Our Foundations."

What's involved in Creation Care Ambassador training?

Creation Care Ambassador training uses a set of market-tested tools, including: a one-hour version of the training to be used by Creation Care Ambassadors in their presentations, handouts with notes and citations, and access to a website with support materials and recordings. Hundreds have participated in training webinars since they were introduced in the ELCA, and some have moved forward to become officially certified. Certified Creation Care Ambassadors are authorized to present information on climate and health impacts and advocacy strategies on climate solutions in the United States.



Be vocal with leaders within your community

If I'm interested in learning more, what are my next steps?

To explore Creation Care Ambassador training in the ELCA for yourself or your ministry setting, or to invite a certified Creation Care Ambassador to provide resources on local creation care activity, contact Lutherans Restoring Creation, info@lutheransrestoringcreation.org. Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. Future training opportunities will also be promoted through ELCA Advocacy on social media, @ELCAadvocacy.



Take your voice national

"The prospect of doing too little too late leads many people to despair. But as people of faith, captives of hope, and vehicles of God's promise, we face the crisis," reads *Caring for Creation* (p. 12). Creation Care Ambassadors can equip us to face the crisis effectively and embrace the promise.