

NWSWI Creation Care Team

2025 Annual Report



In 2025, the Synod-Wide Creation Care Team focused on connection, education, and visible witness, encouraging congregations and individuals to engage in caring for God's creation in meaningful and practical ways.

A major highlight of the year was community outreach and education. Through Thrivent, the Creation Care Team was able to give away approximately \$1,000 in eco-friendly products at key synod and community events, including:

- Walking Together
- Synod Assembly
- EcoFaith Summit
- Yellowstone Art Trail
- Lafayette Fall Festival

These giveaways served as tangible reminders of our shared call to care for creation and opened the door for many thoughtful conversations.

In January, the Creation Care Team hosted a synod-wide Zoom gathering, creating space for relationship-building, shared learning, and encouragement across the synod.

During the Summer, we hosted a Children's Story Night on Zoom. Linda Stockinger read the book "*Children of the Seventh Fire: An Ancient Prophecy for Modern Times*". There were approximately 12 participants.

The team also conducted a synod-wide survey to gauge congregational interest in solar, wind, and geothermal energy, providing helpful insight into current engagement and future opportunities for renewable energy initiatives.

The synod continues its strong commitment to the EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest, co-sponsoring the event for the third consecutive year. The other co-sponsors are Lutheran Advocacy – Minnesota, Minneapolis Area Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Northwestern Minnesota Synod and the St. Paul Area Synod. Three members of our synod—Laurel Boyer, Pastor Greg Kauffmann, and Luke Pederson—serve on the summit planning team, helping shape both content and vision.

The 2026 EcoFaith Summit, *From Fear to Fire: Igniting Community for a Planet in Peril*, will be held on April 18th at First Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota.

The Creation Care team is also working on a video of the many things our congregations are doing related to creation care. We are hoping to show this video at Walking Together and Synod Assembly.

The Synod-Wide Creation Care Team is grateful for the continued support and participation of congregations throughout the synod and looks forward to building on this work in the coming year as we faithfully live out our call to care for God's creation.

Submitted By: Laurel Boyer & Luke Pederson