



# 2009 Early Adopter Project Case Study Report

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

IN COOPERATION WITH UW-SUPERIOR  
NORTHERN CENTER FOR COMMUNITY  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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*This project represents the first formal U.S. training presented by The Natural Step Canada  
Trainers: Mike Purcell, TNS-C Senior Sustainability Advisor, and Lisa MacKinnon, TNS Associate*

# SUSTAINABLE TWIN PORTS 2009 EARLY ADOPTER PROJECT CASE STUDY REPORT

## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

### Background

“Empowered by Christ’s love, Gloria Dei reaches out as an inclusive, welcoming church through worship and social action.” Its membership of approximately 310 exhibit diversity in age, gender, race, sexual orientation and economic background, and are served by one full-time pastor and eight part-time staff. In addition to welcoming all people in weekly worship and participation, Gloria Dei is committed to reaching out in service to its Central Hillside neighborhood and beyond. It is a founding congregation of several service organizations in Duluth.

Gloria Dei is an active member congregation of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This synod includes 147 congregations and covers 13 counties in the Arrowhead region of Minnesota. Gloria Dei is known for its commitment to social justice and has been instrumental in introducing resolutions for shaping wider church policy and practice at its synod assembly. In 2008, Gloria Dei submitted a resolution calling congregations of the synod to grow faithfully and intentionally in the care of creation as individuals and congregations, and calling for the formation of a synod-wide Creation Care Team. (Attachment A). Pastor Carlson defines ‘creation care’ as “practices of individuals and faith communities that model a just relationship with the earth, its creatures and ecosystems, and all people. Such practices may be informed by science but grow out of a faith community's scriptures and are emphasized as part of its worship, reflecting its understanding of God's relationship to the world as, for example in Christianity, an ongoing relationship of creating, redeeming, and sustaining the world.”

In January 2008, Gloria Dei adopted a resolution to accept responsibility as stewards of the earth and pledged to grow faithfully and intentionally in this responsibility as individuals and as a congregation. The Green Team was designated to oversee and facilitate the carrying out of this pledge, working with partnering committees for its fulfillment, and setting goals in these areas:

- Worship in ways that celebrate and foster care of creation.
- Educate adults and children in ecological issues and practices.
- Green the buildings and grounds of our facilities.
- Promote earth-friendly lifestyle of members at home and work.
- Encourage community involvement in caring for the environment.

### Beginnings

Having already begun the process through establishment of their Green Team, Gloria Dei’s team was quick to identify the practices already in line with sustainability principles. The table below outlines the initiatives that were underway when The Natural Step training began.

## Baseline Analysis – Sustainable Practices

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability Principle #1</u></b></p> <p><i>...concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energy audit completed – Aug 2007</li> <li>○ Building renovation – increased insulation in attic</li> <li>○ Renovated building rather than demolishing</li> <li>○ Recycling aluminum</li> <li>○ CFLs – using where possible</li> <li>○ Encourage carpool, bus, bike, walking</li> <li>○ Location is easily accessible by bus</li> <li>○ Radio broadcast of weekly worship (no driving)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability Principle #2</u></b></p> <p><i>...concentrations of substances produced by society</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Property committee member attended a cleaning supply expo</li> <li>○ Reused Styrofoam from addition for insulation</li> <li>○ Computer technician member refurbishes computers</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability Principle #3</u></b></p> <p><i>...degradation of the Earth by physical means</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reused river rock from addition roof</li> <li>○ Eco-plants in worship – eco-palms, gardens, local</li> <li>○ Paper use – size reduction for bulletin, newsletter</li> <li>○ Paper recycling &amp; using 30% recycled post-consumer paper</li> <li>○ Butterfly garden &amp; green garden square</li> <li>○ Using ceramic dishes, avoiding disposables</li> <li>○ Encouraging locally grown ingredients for potlucks</li> <li>○ Distributed reusable grocery bags to members</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability Principle #4</u></b></p> <p><i>...peoples' capacity to meet their own needs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educational materials, talks, documents in-house</li> <li>○ Publicizing events in community about environment</li> <li>○ Advocacy - Resolution, Green Team, Synod Task Force</li> <li>○ Fair Trade: coffee/tea/chocolate at fellowship hour</li> <li>○ Field trip to Food Farm/CSA involvement</li> <li>○ Community Garden Program sponsorship</li> <li>○ Neighborhood Breakfast, Tax program</li> <li>○ Rummage Sale – meeting some needs for community</li> <li>○ Budget supports social justice locally and globally</li> </ul>

The second step in that process was to identify current practices that were in violation of the principles. The table below highlights opportunities for moving toward sustainability by identifying areas where more sustainable actions could be implemented.

## Baseline Analysis – Unsustainable Practices

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability Principle #1</u></b></p> <p><i>...concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth's crust</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Heat through city steam – coal fired</li> <li>○ Electric through MN Power – primarily coal fired</li> <li>○ Electricity use – need to evaluate ours/tenants'</li> <li>○ Lawn mowing – gas use</li> <li>○ Most members drive to worship, events, meetings</li> <li>○ Organ renovation included more new pipes (lead/zinc)</li> <li>○ Are we recycling as much as we can?</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability Principle #2</u></b></p> <p><i>...concentrations of substances produced by society</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cleaning supplies – haven't evaluated</li> <li>○ Styrofoam use – need to evaluate ours/tenants'</li> <li>○ Fertilizer use – haven't evaluated</li> <li>○ Carpet chemicals</li> <li>○ Asphalt</li> <li>○ Building repair and maintenance material</li> <li>○ Old electronic equipment</li> </ul>
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**Sustainability Principle #3***...degradation of the Earth by physical means*

- Parking lot – large, mostly non-permeable
- Tree removal – to be replaced?
- Paper use – need to evaluate
- Water use – evaluate, including sump pump discharge
- Landfill garbage – need to evaluate
- Flowers on altar – evaluate sources
- Food/commodities served that may not be eco-friendly

**Sustainability Principle #4***...peoples' capacity to meet their own needs*

- Currently not providing full health care coverage for office staff (though we have plans to do so)
- Office coffee not fair trade
- Budget could fund outreach/assistance more
- Stewardship of time – not working staff or “super” volunteers to extreme

**A New Vision for a Sustainable Future**

In developing a clear vision of a sustainable future for their church, Gloria Dei identified two main characteristics to which they aspire.

In the future, as a sustainable organization in a sustainable society:

- We are fluent in a shared language of sustainability principles and environmental issues
- We understand and teach sustainability as a biblical mandate/ expression of discipleship connected to God's love for all creation

They also agreed with these six characteristics suggested by the TNS trainers as examples of sustainable characteristics:

- We have a net carbon impact of zero – that is, no net carbon will accumulate in the atmosphere as a result of our operations
- We have zero waste: we are highly efficient in our use of energy, water, materials, etc.
- Our transportation is resource efficient
- We generate only benign emissions – that is: emissions that nature can deal with in the regular functioning of its systems
- We derive 100% of our energy from renewable resources
- We work with our suppliers, members, and community to ensure that sustainability is also a part of the way they do business and live



*Pastor David Carlson grapples with vision characteristics with Gloria Dei team members Tom Uecker and John McDonald*

As they considered ways to frame their vision, a brainstorming session produced the following list in answer to these questions: “What would our organization look like without sustainability violations?”, “What would we be doing?”.

- Collaborate with corporate/private neighbors on parking lot issues
- Permeable surface for parking
- Make use of member “clusters” more – map put together by vision team
- Ride Share – need a ride? Give a ride?
- “Designated driver” for some meetings

- Recycling “Craig’s list” in congregation – like perpetual rummage sale to reuse items
- Wind shares at MN Power – more expensive, but possibility to buy some/more
- Solar panels!
- Community Garden – Gloria Dei adopt a plot and donate produce to local service organization
- CSA – Gloria Dei sponsor a summer share (~\$450) and take it to local service organization
- Composting pit in back?
- Food recycling – during events, Neighborhood Breakfast
- Rain garden to help deal with waste/run-off water
- Education – green library, Vacation Bible School, continuing PowerPoint blurbs during coffee hour, newsletter, website sharing – what works for you?
- Educating tenants as well as members

### Actions – Outcomes – Metrics

Using a standard planning template, Pastor Carlson and his team constructed a clearly delineated model of goals, strategies, actions, timelines and accountability measures to move their vision forward. In addition, the designation of “quick win” or “big win” was added to help clarify the scope of their actions (QW-BW).

#### Goal 1: Reduce energy use and landfill garbage in church building

Strategy 1: Educate *tenants* who use our building

QW            Action 1: Coffee gathering with staff/tenants

QW            Action 2: Talk about Styrofoam, food waste, recycling

                  Action 3: Signage about conserving energy near lights, etc.

Outcomes: These actions were quickly incorporated and generate on-going conversation.

Strategy 2: Educate church *members* (see Goal #3, below)

                  Action 1: Overlap with Long-Range Planning Committee

\* BW            Action 2: Replace paper plates with Corelle dishes (donations of used dishes from many sources)

Outcomes: Pastor Carlson reports that the effect of switching from disposable plates to Corelle plates reduced garbage considerably. Part of the decrease can be attributed to implementing food waste composting during monthly community breakfasts and weekly fellowship times.

Strategy 3: Involve members of Property Committee, Building Renovation Committee

                  Action 1: Overlap with Green Team (ongoing)

                  Action 2: Overlap with Building Renovation Committee

\* BW            Action 3: Assess costs, rebates for solar panels

Outcomes: The overlap in membership on the Property Committee, Renovation Committee, and Green Team has been an important guard against “silo-thinking” that can occur in organizations. The Green Team pledged to raise the dollars needed to provide an additional bin for co-mingled recyclables (plastic, glass, aluminum) through donations from their coffee hours during the year.



Goal 2: Implement Clusters

Strategy 1: Complete clustering of members into neighborhood groups

QW

Action 1: Sit at “Cluster tables” during coffee hour

Action 2: Revise cluster groupings as needed.

Outcomes: This idea did not return as much participation as was hoped for. Some members consistently carpool to church for worship or meetings and this may have reinforced habits that were already in place. As with other behavioral changes, this was a suggestion that required individual motivation to incorporate and will require on-going encouragement.

Strategy 2: Encourage brainstorming on how clusters can help individuals and the parish by helping people meet their needs

Action 1: Coffee incentives for ride sharing

Action 2: Questions on tables inviting feedback for Green Team

Outcomes: Gloria Dei learned that their regular carpools gather not by geographical location but by relationships and shared interests (i.e. a Care Team of individuals who visit homebound members sometimes provide transportation to/from church; other carpooling is more informal). This presents a possible avenue to pursue in the future.

Strategy 3: National Night Out in Fall

Action 1: Invite clusters to meet together on that night

Goal 3: Develop Fluency in Shared Language of Sustainability

Strategy 1: Shared language in *parish* about sustainability and faith

QW

Action 1: Lenten Bible study “God’s Creation and The Natural Step” and carbon fasting(Attachment B)

Action 2: Invited speaker – memorial lecture series

Action 3: Adult Forum focus: Study ELCA Social Statements, “Caring for Creation” and “Toward a Sustainable Livelihood for All”; “Renewal” - DVD showing at Adult Forum on faith communities

Outcomes: These actions helped in building a shared language of sustainability, including both an understanding of scientific principles of sustainability (articulated by TNS) and faith values of earthkeeping and stewardship/celebration of God's creation. Two stories shared by Pastor Carlson: “Early in our year of training, a women's Bible study group decided that we needed reusable cups as well as coffee mugs. Later in the year, a high school student decided to provide cloth napkins that he volunteered to launder each week. When a shared language exists, initiatives can come from a variety of places and be consistent with the overall vision.”

Strategy 2: Shared language in *synod* about sustainability and faith

QW

Action 1: Overlap with Synod Creation Care Task Force (ongoing)

\* BW

Action 2: Resolution at Assembly encouraging all congregations to have an energy audit

QW

Action 3: Share Lenten Bible study with others at Synod Assembly

Outcomes: The resolution passed at the assembly and materials were shared. Twenty of sixty congregations had done an energy audit when approached.

## Lessons Learned, Challenges Faced, Barriers Overcome

Here are some final words from the team as they considered the overall training, its benefits and challenges.

- “We learned to think in ‘big picture’ systems and how Gloria Dei fits into those systems. That led to unanswered questions like ‘what is our water use, fertilizer use, landfill quantity’, and others we hadn’t considered yet. It was very helpful to then look at a second order analysis of the aspects of our organization such as energy, property, buildings, purchasing, utilities, employees/volunteers, etc., and hold each of those up against the four principles.”
- “Taking work already done by the Green Team and holding that up to the TNS framework was eye opening and provided structure.”
- “Budgeting time away from work for the trainings was our biggest challenge.”
- “We were challenged to understand what a ‘vision’ was as opposed to listing strategies, which turned out to be the direction our visioning brainstorm took.”

For other faith communities learning about The Natural Step, Pastor Carlson and the Early Adopter team offer these recommendations:

- Keep track of and celebrate what you are already doing to care for the earth.
- Developing a shared language of sustainability is KEY - not only within the faith community but also to reach beyond it into the public arena. “This is where familiarization with both scientific principles and faith values can reach different people, as we saw at the two Public Showcase events with Sustainable Twin Ports. We had conversations with some who came from a more scientific or business background and appreciated learning why this was important to us from a faith perspective. And we had conversations with some who could relate to us from their participation in a faith community and learn some of why we participated in the science-based training.”

## Next Steps

These are some current projects/goals on which the Early Adopter team is working:

- Conversation regarding food waste recycling at a Duluth public elementary school
- In the early stages of putting together a "directory" for individuals wanting to pursue more sustainable food choices - CSAs, community garden program, free range poultry, bison, lamb, fish, etc.
- Hosting Sustainable Twin Ports meetings
- Participation at the community and synod level with earthkeeping initiatives and groups
- Writing a piece on TNS for Lutherans Restoring Creation for the statewide synod Creation Care initiative

Pastor Carlson and his team believe their continued efforts to teach and use the new language offered by The Natural Step will keep them on the path toward sustainability. They have impacted hundreds with their message and faithfully extend what they have learned to others throughout the state of Minnesota.



*Gloria Dei Lutheran Church team members, (l to r):  
John McDonald, Pastor David Carlson and Tom Uecker*

## RESOLUTION FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted by Gloria Dei Green Team; approved by Gloria Dei Church Council; forwarded to the annual meeting.

WHEREAS the care of creation is deeply rooted in the Biblical witness, as are themes of the celebration, stewardship, and redemption of all God has made, and

WHEREAS social statements of the ELCA (e.g., *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice*, 1993), Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson (message to the ELCA, April 22, 2007), and Bishop Peter Strommen ("Global Warming Solutions," public remarks October 28, 2007), express concern for the environment and urge the church's advocacy and action on behalf of all living things, and

WHEREAS the human impact on climate change resulting in global warming has been called "unequivocal" by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a Nobel Peace Prize winning group of the world's preeminent scientists studying earth's climate ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)), stimulating serious consideration by governments, organizations, and individuals around the world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve resources, and work toward sustainability, and

WHEREAS there are several earth-friendly practices Gloria Dei Lutheran Church as a congregation has done and is already doing to care for creation, including but not limited to: using environmentally sustainable palms for Palm Sunday, hosting Lake Superior Sunday in July and a Blessing of the Animals in October, recycling paper and aluminum in our building, insulating the attic above the sanctuary, using compact fluorescent bulbs in the building where possible, conducting an energy audit (Aug. 2007), reusing material from the 1950s roof replacement, using and selling fair trade goods, offering a free public showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* (Oct. 2006), announcing earth-friendly resources and events for members and friends in the bulletins and *Dei by Day* newsletter, and

WHEREAS the Green Team, made up of Gloria Dei members and operating under the permission of the Church Council since April 2007, has been examining ways in which we as a congregation can be more intentionally and cooperatively involved in the care of creation, and

WHEREAS as a congregation, we have the calling and opportunity to model the kind of care for creation we would like to see in the world, therefore be it

RESOLVED that Gloria Dei Lutheran Church accept our responsibility to be stewards of the earth, and pledge to grow faithfully and intentionally in this responsibility as individuals and as a congregation, and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregation designate the Green Team to provide leadership and oversight of this pledge and to work with partnering groups for its fulfillment, using resources such as *The Green Congregation Program*, a free resource guide developed by the ELCA Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Green Team help the congregation set goals in these areas:

- Worship in ways that celebrate and foster care for creation.
- Educate adults and children in ecological issues and practices.
- Green the buildings and grounds of our facilities.
- Promote earth-friendly lifestyle of members at home and work.
- Encourage community involvement in caring for the environment. And be it further

RESOLVED that the Green Team submit a similar resolution for the 2008 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly and provide an information table at the synod assembly to encourage more congregations to join the Green Congregation Program.

Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Attachment B

This is the five-week Lenten study Pastor Carlson presented to his congregation. Each week focused on a step in the ABCD process, with the final week focusing specifically on Sustainability Principle #4: Human Needs.

# GOD'S CREATION AND THE NATURAL STEP GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH LENT 2009

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## Week 1 – “Awareness: God’s Green Earth”

### Biblical Passages & Images of God’s Creation

Genesis 1, 2; Psalm 8, 104; John 1; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

### Introduction to The Natural Step [slide show]

Systems Thinking & the Funnel image

Cycles of Nature

ABCD Process: Awareness, Baseline Assessment, Compelling Vision, Down to Action

4 Sustainability Principles

### In a sustainable society, nature is not subject to systematically increasing...

- 1 ...Concentrations of substances extracted from the Earth’s crust (e.g. fossil fuels, dispersed metals, etc.)
- 2 ...Concentrations of substances produced by society (e.g. dispersed pesticides, persistent chemicals from our manufacturing processes and our products, etc.)
- 3 ...Degradation by physical means (e.g. paving wetlands, deforestation, over harvesting fish, agricultural and forestry practices that result in the loss of soil, soil ecosystems and valuable nutrients, urban sprawl, loss of diversity through monoculture, etc.)  
and, in that society...
- 4 ...people are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs (e.g. lack of access to education and health care, poor wages, time pressure from jobs, etc.)

### Prayer for Creation and New Creation (ELW p. 81)

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him; the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world’s people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Week 2 – “Baseline Assessment: Adam, Where Are You?”

### Biblical Passages & Images of God’s Creation

Genesis 3; Psalm 90, 36:5-10, James 2:14-18; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10, 21:29-33

### Review of The Natural Step Principles [slide show]

Systems Thinking & the Funnel image

Cycles of Nature

4 Sustainability Principles

ABCD Process: Awareness, Baseline Assessment, Compelling Vision, Down to Action



## Baseline Assessment:

Violations and Assets [handout]

- as a parish
- as individuals

## Calculating one's ecological footprint

MN Power - energy audit <http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/carbonfootprint/>

Assets in our midst

- EcoSource Directory
- Collaboration and sharing ideas

## Prayer for Creation and New Creation

### *Week 3 – “Compelling Vision: On Earth as in Heaven”*

## Biblical Passages & Images of God's Creation

Genesis 9; Psalm 96, 98; Revelation 21:1-7; Matthew 6:7-13

## Review of The Natural Step Principles [slide show]

Systems Thinking & the Funnel image

Cycles of Nature

4 Sustainability Principles

ABCD Process: Awareness, Baseline Assessment, Compelling Vision, Down to Action

## Compelling Vision:

Creative Solutions – brainstorming our Vision characteristics:

1. Clusters – by getting to know people in their clusters, parishioners may better understand each other's needs, be able to share rides to/from church functions, deepen their sense of belonging within the larger whole, connected to a shared purpose.
2. Developing fluency in a shared language of sustainability and biblical expressions of earthkeeping.
3. Seizing opportunities to engage in practices that model care for the earth in the wider community.

What would our organization look like without sustainability violations?

Brainstorming:

- Collaborate with SMDC, St. Luke's Hillside, other neighbors on parking lot issues
- Permeable surface for parking
- Make use of member “clusters” more – map put together by vision team
- Ride Share – need a ride? Give a ride?
- “Designated driver” for some meetings
- Recycling “Craig's list” in congregation – like perpetual rummage sale to reuse items
- Wind shares at MP – more expensive, but possibility to buy some/more
- Solar panels!
- Community Garden – Gloria Dei adopt a plot and donate produce to CHUM
- CSA – Gloria Dei sponsor a summer share (~\$450) and take it to CHUM
- Composting pit in back?
- Food recycling – during events, Neighborhood Breakfast
- Rain garden to help deal with waste water
- Education – green library, VBS, continuing ppt. blurbs during coffee hour, newsletter, website sharing – what works for you?
- Educating tenants as well as members

Vision Characteristics: (designed to eliminate violations)

In the future, as a sustainable organization in a sustainable society: (1<sup>st</sup> 6 are examples from TNS)

- We have a net carbon impact of zero – that is, no net carbon will accumulate in the atmosphere as a result of our operations
- We have zero waste: we are highly efficient in our use of energy, water, materials, etc.
- We generate only benign emissions – that is: emissions that nature can deal with in the regular functioning of its systems
- We derive 100% of our energy from renewable resources
- Our transportation is resource efficient
- We work with our suppliers, members, and community to ensure that sustainability is also a part of the way they do business and live
- *\*We are fluent in a shared language of sustainability principles and environmental issues*
- *\*We understand and teach sustainability as a biblical mandate/ expression of discipleship connected to God's love for all creation*

*Sunday, March 15, 2009*

*Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.*

*Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy at  
the presence of the Lord.*

*-Psalm 98:7-8*

Over the past year and a half, members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, MD, have been growing in their understanding of their call to be earthkeepers. Pastor Sarah Scherschligt shares their story:

"Prince of Peace is a suburban congregation in the fast-paced area outside of Washington DC. We're a growing church and I don't just mean in numbers. I came here as a pastor in fall, 2008, and immediately noticed that people were talking about the environment. Hiking trips, Al Gore, CFLs, Energy-saving appliances. All it took was one brainstorming meeting pulling all these people together and our Creation Care Team took off. We joined the Greater Interfaith Power and Light of Washington DC and got a free energy audit. Since then, we've changed the light bulbs, installed fans to decrease our heating costs, and controlled our thermostats."

"But we're not just going after the easy changes; we're also digging deeper...quite literally! We're starting a community garden: The Fruitful Field (from Isaiah). We're Carbon Fasting during Lent and then we'll kick off our garden with a Creation Care Carnival on April 19th – the Sunday after Easter. Some of the food will go to a local food shelf and some to people who don't have access to gardens of their own. The kids in our congregation received seeds early in Lent and they'll be the first to plant. Here's hoping their lettuce makes it. We're paying special attention to landscape preservation with rain barrels and compost bins. Our county is helping us develop a rainscape (and they might even pay for it)."

"Our Creation Care Team is not only great for the earth and our hearts; it's also energizing our whole congregation. This Lent, I keep remembering that Mary thought the resurrected Jesus was a gardener. Makes sense to me. Jesus is the gardener of a growing church with a living faith."

The goal of the Minnesota Energy Challenge is to empower Minnesotans to take simple steps to reduce their energy use and Minnesota's CO2 emissions. The Minnesota Energy Challenge educates people about the actions they can take so they understand how easy it is for all of us to do our part. It's about individuals taking actions to reduce their own use and then empowering their neighbors and friends to do the same.

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH: CARBON DIET - LENT 2009



Watch their video at [www.youtube.com/sustainabletwinports](http://www.youtube.com/sustainabletwinports)

I commit to reducing CO2 emissions during this season of Lent by (please check any or all that you choose):

- replacing 5 light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- consistently turning off lights/electronics when leaving a room
- setting the thermostat down 2 degrees
- washing clothes in cold water
- recycling the basics – paper, bottles, and cans
- other:

It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3: Login at [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org) , agree to the challenge, and read the info.

## Prayer for Creation and New Creation

### *Week 4 – “Down to Action: Getting in Step with the Spirit”*

#### Biblical Passages & Images of God’s Creation

Ezekiel 37:1-11; Psalm 104:24-30, Galatians 5:22-25; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; John 10:9-16, 27-29

#### Review of The Natural Step Principles [slide show]

Systems Thinking, Funnel image

Cycles of Nature

4 Sustainability Principles

ABCD Process: Awareness, Baseline Assessment, Compelling Vision, Down to Action

#### Down To Action:

Deciding on priorities and creating an action plan – 3 strategic questions:

1. Does this initiative proceed in the right direction with respect to all 4 sustainability principles?
2. Does this initiative provide a stepping-stone (i.e. “flexible platform”) for future improvements toward sustainability?
3. Does this initiative produce a sufficient return on investment to further support the transition toward sustainability?

Creative Solutions and Vision characteristics:

- Clusters – by getting to know people in their clusters, parishioners may better understand each other’s needs, be able to share rides to/from church functions, deepen their sense of belonging within the larger whole, connected to a shared purpose.
- Developing fluency in a shared language of sustainability and biblical expressions of earthkeeping.
- Seizing opportunities to engage in practices that model care for the earth in the wider community.

#### Discernment

1. Sometimes a measure represents a trade-off; if so, how can we modify/adjust so that trade-off is reduced or eliminated?
2. Flexible platform? Idea is to avoid dead ends.
3. The process shouldn’t end due to lack of resources

## Prayer for Creation and New Creation

### *Week 5 – “The Human Factor: Created Co-Creators”*

#### Biblical Passages & Images of God’s Creation

Genesis 1 & 2; Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 95, 98; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; John 15:1-8

## Review of The Natural Step Principles [slide show]

Systems Thinking, Funnel image

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ABCD Process: Awareness, Baseline Assessment, Compelling Vision, Down to Action

## Basic Human Needs:

Subsistence                      Idleness

Protection                      Creation

Affection                      Identity

Understanding                Freedom

Participation

Source: *Human Scale Development* Manfred A. Max-Neef, Apex Press, New York, 1991

## Prayer for Creation and New Creation

1. Clusters – mapping, reviving a helpful integrated network
  - Getting to know neighbors in clusters – April 19
  - Options for get-togethers, bible study, service, ride sharing
  - National Night Out / Cluster Night – fall
2. Developing fluency in a shared language of sustainability and biblical expressions of earthkeeping.
  - Work within church structures for sustainable decisions
  - Green Team, Long-range planning team
  - Continue learning opportunities in parish
    - Adult forum – social statements, DVDs
  - Sunday school, VBS
  - Memorial Lecture series – speakers
  - Resource table, “green” section in library, idea bank
  - Continue learning opportunities w/ synod
    - Synod assembly 2010 – creation care emphasis
    - Creation Care Task Force – turnover, involvement
    - Fair trade commitment
3. Engaging in practices that model care for the earth at church and in community.
  - Resource use at church building – a new “normal”
    - Conserve energy – educate tenants too, use signs
    - Food composting
  - Assess cleaning supplies
    - Recycling Sundays – batteries, CFLs, etc.
    - Long range: Solar augmentation – explore options
  - Community involvement
  - CSA preserving shares – donations to CHUM
  - Community Garden involvement
  - Bigger picture: letters to elected officials – biomass use at steam plant?

