



April 22, 2020

Dear faithful advocates,

Happy Earth Day!

It all began 50 years ago with a Wisconsin U.S. Senator, who also served as one of our governors. Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day beginning with a teach-in about environmental problems on April 22, 1970. "Twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it worked! In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency." –EPA. The environment was lifted into the realm of public policy.

In the midst of the pandemic, we read about or see photos of clear skylines normally not visible in congested cities, reminding us of what can be. We get glimpses of hope in some of the recent legislative efforts in Wisconsin but are left deeply disturbed by many other policies. Today, Earth Day is celebrated globally, many recognizing this period as Earth Week. The day/week is an important reminder of our urgent call to be stewards of God's creation and to imagine and live into what is possible. Below are some resources to help us along the way.

RESOURCES

[Caring for God's Creation](#) - ELCA Social Statement

[ELCA Advocacy Resources](#)

[ELCA Young Adults - Youtube](#) - Resources, and Earth Day event hosted here on 4/23

[Lutherans Restoring Creation](#) - great worship and study resources

[Wisconsin Water Resource Guide](#) - an LOPPW resource

[SCSW Steps to Caring for God's Creation](#)

[Impacts of Climate on Wisconsin](#) – Chief Meteorologist Bob Lindmeier interview

[Renew Wisconsin](#) - I'm interested in solar energy. Where do I begin? For your church, other nonprofit, business, or home, check out the assistance Renew Wisconsin can guide you to.

“Climate change hits the poorest the hardest,” says World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, “and our challenge now is to protect tens of millions of people from falling into extreme poverty because of a changing climate.” **From ELCA World Hunger.**

Lutheran Office for Public Policy - California Hunger Fellow Nicole Newell recently shared this quote: “Nature has taught me about fluid adaptability. About not only weathering storms, but using howling winds to spread seeds wide, torrential rains to nurture roots so they can grow deeper and stronger. Nature has taught me that a storm can be used to clear out branches that are dying, to let go of that which was keeping us from growing in new directions.” - Walidah Imarisha

Blessings upon you and all of God's creation,

Team LOPPW