



Grain

“Action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential for the future of our children and our children’s children. Time is very short.”

—ELCA Social Statement on Caring for God’s Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice

Field

²⁰ “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,^[a] so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:20-24

Thoughts (Based largely on thoughts from May 2019)

Jesus didn’t simply pray for those who were immediately surrounding him or even only for people living during his physical lifetime, but also for future generations. That means we were part of Jesus’ prayers 2,000 years ago. The disciples overheard Jesus and transmitted his words through history to people who would come after them and will follow us. Future lives matter. I feel a need to claim that, not because current lives don’t matter, but future lives seem marginalized in a present in which we too easily say climate change seems abstract, or that the problem of global warming doesn’t feel urgent.

Today, we have enough technology to seriously address climate change caused by humans. There is a lot of good news about what’s working to diminish carbon dioxide emissions. Some of our municipalities in Wisconsin and the UP are moving us forward, and Wisconsin has its first ever Clean Energy Plan. Yet substantial efforts on a state and federal level can get lost in partisan politics. In reaction, increasing numbers of young people have raised their voices in recent years. The crisis feels real to many youth who wonder what our planet will look like when they are their parents’ and grandparents’ ages. However, the burden of the crisis should not fall on any one generation. Jesus calls us to be united across age groups and through time.

As we advocate on local and broader levels to care for God’s creation, what if we sometimes also included future generations in our prayers. Dear God, we pray for your children who will come after us. Give them the grace to know your love, an earth that sustains them and all future creatures, clean water, beautiful landscapes, enough food from the land and just policies that ensure everyone gets to eat. For what else do we pray for the future children of God? Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy