

WHAT ARE CONGREGATIONS IN CENTRAL STATES SYNOD DOING TO CARE FOR CREATION?

The Bridge Market and Faith Community, St. Charles, MO

- “Urban Stitchers” group crochets mats made out of recycled plastic bags for unsheltered individuals
- Formed a “Bridging Hunger Project” that planted and harvested hardy vegetables in an organic farm that rents plots. Vegetables were given to a pantry in a food desert area of St. Louis

Children’s Memorial Lutheran, Kansas City, MO

- Cut energy use by not heating/cooling entire building
- Worship in gathering space vs. sanctuary
- Increase use of reusable dinner ware

Christ and Trinity Lutheran Church, Sedalia, MO

- Have installed a 12 kilowatt solar energy system, estimated to produce 15,000 kilowatt hours of solar electricity annually. In terms of environmental equivalencies, offsetting 23,332 pounds of CO2 is like eliminating the emissions caused by burning 1,186 gallons of gas each year or by planting 271 tree seedlings, grown for 10 years

Gethsemane Lutheran, St. Louis, MO

- New HVAC system
- Education in creation care

First Lutheran, Manhattan, KS

- Provide leadership for Dialog on Sustainability and Kansas Natural Resource Council (KNRX)
- Recycling
- Cut energy use by using LED lights outside
- Studying the Pope’s Encyclical

Hillside Community, Spring Hill, KS

- Attic insulation—batt added by volunteers and professional insulation blown in. Projected payback in 2 years.

Holy Cross, Overland Park, KS

- Cut energy use, sensor lights, temp augmentation, Energy Star rated machines
- Full facility audit including ABC/IMFA/LEED options as part of renovation plan
- Understanding, preaching and teaching on stewardship and dominion as life style

Kent Memorial, Sunrise Beach, MO

- Replaced 3 furnaces with energy efficient units
- Tinted some windows and added curtains to others, making those rooms easier to cool in summer
- Replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFL or LED

Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Florissant, MO

- Community Garden using organic methods and planting natives for birds/butterflies
- Earthbound DVD series in Adult Forum
- Members and confirmation youth are crocheting mats for the homeless from grocery bags
- Tips about care of creation in monthly newsletter and partnering with Missouri Interfaith Power and Light to show “Chasing Ice” movie

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Prairie Village, KS

- Cut energy usage—low flow toilets, motions sensor lights, energy efficient HVAC system, lighting and programmable thermostats
- Preaching on environment stewardship
- Earth Sunday Celebration—each family received a flowering plant and table card with scripture and prayer for creation care and we planted apple trees to start a grove to provide fresh fruit for weekly free breakfasts
- Monthly newsletter articles with information on recycling medications, e-waste , hazardous waste, plastics, pesticide use

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ness City, KS

- Cut energy use by programmable heat/AC unit
- As a farming community, our efforts and commitments are to preserve and protect our earth

Overland Park Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS

- Programmable thermostats
- Abiti paper recycling receptacle on premises

Peace, Joplin, MO

- Met with Conservation Department and Audubon representatives to evaluate our 12 acres of savannah on our property to learn about restoring the natural setting
- Conservation efforts on property include rain garden, butterfly garden, bat houses, bird houses, native plantings, tree plantings. Applied for grant funds to help develop butterfly and rain garden
- Planted native raspberries, blackberries, persimmons as well as peach and apple trees
- Developed walking trail and invited community to use the trail

Shepherd of the Hills, Bridgeton, MO

- Programmable thermostats
- Peg board with ceramic coffee mugs
- Plastic or ceramic bowls, metal flatware used for soup suppers
- “Garden of Eatin” community garden

St. John, Russell, KS

- Soles-4-Soles—take van loads of shoes to a Wichita collection site
- Green Rewards program—individuals throw their name in a hat for some “green” activity they have done, draw a name each month and aware a “green” gift
- Recycle cell phones for soldiers, greeting cards, and batteries

Zion, Ferguson, MO

- Signs concerning energy usage/lights
- Replacing lights in meeting rooms, recycling old ones