

## Creation Care Action Opportunities

By: Chuck Thomas, NGLS Vice President

*Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."*

This passage from Genesis is unambiguous. It directly tells us that God gave humankind the responsibility to care for God's wonderful gift of creation. Did you know that our ELCA Church actively supports Creation Care? To learn more, follow this link <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/map-of-lrc-care-for-creation-ministries/>, to find resources for creation care activities and connections.

Are there congregations or members of the Northern Great Lakes Synod interested in actively doing more to care for and preserve what God has gifted? Has your congregation already taken steps toward creation care? If you have, there is an interactive map on the Lutherans Restoring Creation website where you can add your activity. Currently, there are only two action markers representing the entire NGLS. If your congregation has a pollinator garden, an active composting project, solar panels, or has an active creation care team, I encourage you to add your effort to the map. Instructions are provided on the website.

Additionally, a network of synods in our region, including the NGLS, sponsor an annual one-day conference called the EcoFaith Summit, focused on creation care. I recently participated in the planning retreat for this year's Summit, which is scheduled for April 18 at First Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. The theme is **From Fear to Fire: Igniting Community for a Planet in Peril**. This conference is an excellent way to connect with others in the Upper Great Lakes region who are actively answering the call to care for God's creation.

Please consider joining me and others from the NGLS in attending the 2026 Summit. This conference can be attended in person or virtually. Follow this link

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2026> to a more detailed description of the conference along with the registration form. If you are interested please contact the NGLS office at 906-228-2300, as there is a group discount on the registration fee.

If you have questions about the Summit, would like to explore creation care ideas, or are interested in being part of a synod-wide creation care team, please contact me at [nghsynodvp@nglsynod.org](mailto:nghsynodvp@nglsynod.org).