



*“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.” —Psalm 24:1*

What is a faithful Lutheran response to Earth’s changing climate and worsening natural disasters? How do we think about this crisis as people of faith, and what are we called to do?

After hearing requests from across the church for guidance, the ELCA Church Council in March 2022 authorized development of a social message on climate care. Social messages are ELCA social teaching

documents on specific social topics; these documents shape ELCA policy and help members discern how to respond to an issue.

A draft of the social message “Earth’s Climate Crisis” is now posted for public comment! Feedback of this kind helps the drafters know how the document could be more clear, helpful and faithfully Lutheran. Please [read the social message draft here](#) and [use this survey](#) to share your input by Friday, Dec. 2. Questions or longer responses can be emailed to [draftsocialmessage@elca.org](mailto:draftsocialmessage@elca.org).

The drafters and review team will study the public feedback to prepare a proposed social message. That proposed message will be reviewed by the Conference of Bishops and presented to the Church Council for consideration this coming spring.

This public comment period is your chance to contribute directly as our church considers how to address this crucial topic affecting God’s good creation. Please help improve this social message so it can be as effective as possible. And share the news with others, so they can participate too!

God’s peace,

Rev. Roger A. Willer, Ph.D.  
Director for Theological Ethics  
Office of the Presiding Bishop, ELCA

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Bulletin Inserts

**Social message comment opportunity—provide your input!**

Acting upon requests from multiple sources, the November 2021 the ELCA Church Council authorized the development of an ELCA social message on climate care. (Social messages are ELCA teaching documents that address a focused social topic.) A “Draft of a Social Message on Earth’s Climate Crisis” now is posted for public comment and feedback. [Read the social message draft here](#) and then use [this survey](#) to share your input by Friday, December 2, 2022. Your input helps inform revision of the draft that is sent then for review by the Conference of Bishops and the ELCA Church Council in March. Longer responses can be sent as email to: [draftsocialmessage@elca.org](mailto:draftsocialmessage@elca.org).

**Public response period: Social message on climate care**

We need your help! A draft of the ELCA's forthcoming social message on climate change and how we are called to respond has been posted, and the public comment period is open through Friday, Dec. 2. The draft will be edited in response to your feedback and brought to the ELCA Church Council for a vote this spring. To read the draft and provide your input through our online form, go to [elca.org/climatecare](http://elca.org/climatecare).