



CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Ideas and Inspiration from Around the Synod

BUILDING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Building Improvements

- o Energy-Efficient Appliances: Full kitchen remodel with Energy Star appliances and low-water-use dishwasher.
- o Energy Efficiency: Use of spray insulation, caulking windows, and plans for furnace upgrades.
- o LED & Motion-Activated Lighting: Installed throughout church and parking lots.

Waste Reduction

- o Paper Reduction: Reduced weekly worship folder paper use and moved to digital formats for bulletins and meeting documents.
- o Recycling & Upcycling: Scrap materials (e.g., bed sheets) used for quilts, pillowcases for WELCA kits, and collected sewing machines for repair.

Energy Efficiency and Solar Initiatives

- o LED Lighting: 80% of building converted to LED lighting; ongoing work for full conversion.
- o Solar Power: Purchase of solar power from MG&E; Bethel Horizons uses solar for hot water.
- o Energy-Efficient Heating & Cooling: Installation of programmable thermostats, energy-efficient furnaces, and induction heating for dinners.
- o Solar Panel Installation: In progress with plans for further expansion.

Sustainability

- o Ongoing recycling of paper, aluminum, glass, and plastics.
- o Composting of coffee grounds and meal scraps.
- o Fellowship meals use rescued food when available (e.g., surplus local crops).
- o Transitioning to porcelain cups for coffee fellowship.
- o Reduced use of Styrofoam and plastics; phased-out single-use dishes.



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin



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LAND CARE

Environmental Stewardship Projects

- o Land and Habitat: Purchase of 115-acre farm, converted to prairie, managed woodland, and protected wetland; planting trees and promoting pollinator habitats.
- o Beehive & Monarch Restoration: Ongoing efforts to support local biodiversity.
- o No Mow May: Initiative to reduce lawn mowing and support local wildlife.

Water Conservation

- o Water Retention: Investment in a rainwater collection system, including ponds and detention areas.
- o Cooling Tower Replacement: Reduced water usage by 35%.
- o Water Usage Monitoring: Monthly checks to track and reduce consumption.

COMMUNITY LIVING

Community Engagement and Social Responsibility

- o Carpooling: Members and pastors carpool for events, conferences, and Bible studies.
- o Highway Cleanup: Sponsorship of a local highway cleanup initiative.
- o Fair Trade Coffee: Use of fair trade coffee at Sunday services.

Education and Worship

- o Caring for Creation Service: Special liturgy and prayer garden space created.
- o Educational Events: Pastor-led sessions on Caring for Creation, focusing on sustainable living practices.