

EST.



Our Mission Statement:

We will promote care, respect, and stewardship for God's life-sustaining creation in all aspects of life in the St. Andrew's community, specifically in our worship services, or educational programs, the care of our buildings and grounds, and our service to local and global communities.

St. Andrew's Environmental Stewardship Team - News to Use

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS "EST?"

We're glad you asked. It's an acronym for Environmental Stewardship Team. And its purpose? That's best explained in the mission statement which reads:

"We will promote care, respect, and stewardship for God's life-sustaining creation in all aspects of life in the St. Andrew's community, specifically in our worship services, our educational programs, the care of our buildings and grounds, and our service to local and global communities."

In 2006 members and staff of St. Andrew's responded to a growing concern about environmental issues and a need to be caretakers of our earth as God called us to do in Genesis. They wanted to raise awareness that it would benefit our church to address some of these problems.

Other Lutherans shared those sentiments. In 2003 Bishop Hanson wrote, "We cannot love God or our human neighbor without caring for creation. The question is not whether the church will engage what our society calls the environment, but how."

We invite you to join our EST and help carry out projects that foster commitments to conservation and sustainability of our earth and its resources. The mission is compelling and the rewards are great. **Just call or e-mail our chairman Allen Holcomb (651-777-3803 or agholcomb@mac.com) with any questions, or come to our next meeting, May 20th, at 7:00 p.m., in the North Link of the Great Hall. We welcome your participation.**

OUR PLANS FOR 2008

The EST is currently developing plans on

these projects:

- Land use/landscaping plan for our campus,
- reusable grocery bags,
- walk- or bike-to-church Sunday,
- bike racks and parking for vehicles other than cars,
- Rally Sunday,
- compostable coffee cups,
- publicity for EST promotions,
- and/or any new items anyone wishes to present.

If you'd like to work on any of these activities, or have others to propose, our next meeting will be May 20, 7:00 p.m., in the North Link of the Great Hall. Feel free to contact our chairman (information above) or just show up at the meeting.

"FEED MY SHEEP"... "FEED MY SHEEP"... "FEED MY SHEEP"

Three times, after the resurrection, our Lord said to Peter, "Feed my sheep." With such directives, can we as Christians ignore the fact that the world is facing global-wide food shortages? We are bombarded in the media about large-scale famine. Worldwide charities tell us that they are battling a food crisis. The situation is getting worse, and it is caused in part by an ever-increasing failure to produce enough food to feed the world.

We are using large acreages of prime agricultural land to grow food for animal consumption, and we are also using prime agricultural land to supply our energy needs. Serious worldwide food shortage is the result.

The problem is, of course, more complex than that, but it doesn't take the prover-

bial rocket scientist to figure out that insufficient food produced will equal insufficient food to consume.

What can we do about it, here in small-town and small-city Minnesota? We can start by (1) reducing our demand (through the marketplace) for corn-fed meats and (2) by giving all-out support to alternative forms of energy that don't use up fertile agricultural land.

"FEED MY SHEEP"... "FEED MY SHEEP"... "FEED MY SHEEP." If you're motivated to join our group, we welcome you. Next meeting: May 20 at 7:00 p.m., in the North Link of the Great Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth Day ● Tuesday, April 22

Do a Google search for "earth day events Minnesota" to see a broad list of activities around the state. Below are a few more right here in the Mahtomedi area in the next couple of weeks:

Here Comes the Sun ● April 22

Century College will host a panel discussion on home solar energy. Panelists will present practical information on solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, passive solar, and financing solar energy improvements. Call Century College for more information: 651-779-3300.

RITE* of Spring ● April 26 9 a.m. - Noon

(*Really Into the Earth)
Admission is free for this family-friendly event at the Mahtomedi Area District Education Center. This year's event features **free electronics recycling (you can also bring in CFL and fluorescent light bulbs)**, information on sustainable actions, products, and renewable energy, a petting zoo, games and activities for kids, and much more! (cont. on p. 2) >>>>

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RITE* of Spring • April 26th

Free gift bags full of great items for the first 200 households and free tree seedlings. Plus, bring in your old lead tackle and mercury thermometers and exchange them for lead-free tackle and mercury-free thermometers – free, while supplies last. Also, please bring a food donation for our local food shelf! St. Andrews will be hosting a table with information on bike transportation including how to use bus bike racks and trail maps and more.

For more information see www.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us/communityeducation.

The Living Green Expo • Sat. May 3 - Sun. May 4

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., State Fair Grandstand

The Living Green Expo is a free, annual event that provides information and products to help Minnesotans improve the environmental and social impacts of their day-to-day living. The Expo features over 200 exhibitors of products, services, and information, along with workshops on a variety of sustainability and green living topics. Expo attractions include music, art, food, demonstrations, and activities for youth and children. Visit www.living-green.org for more details.

Renewable Energy Systems - Are they right for you? • Tuesdays May 13 and May 20

Century College, 6-9 p.m.

The course will offer an overview of solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, wood, biofuels, and conservation, and is recommended for anyone interested in adopting alternative energy systems for their home, cabin, or small business. Fee for the two sessions is \$69. Call 651-777-3341.

Did you know that your choice of chocolate can be good for the world as well as being good for body and soul?

The pocket-sized book *THE BETTER WORLD SHOPPING GUIDE* by Ellis Jones grades companies and products by their social responsibility and environmental impact. You might want to choose Newman's Own or Green and Black rather than Dove chocolate, as good as the latter may taste. Want to know why? This little book is available in many bookstores or online and can help you to help your world.

A Brief History of Earth Day

April 22 each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest “to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda.” “It was a gamble,” he recalls, “but it worked.”

On April 22, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city dwellers and farmers, business owners and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts. Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the highest honor given to civilians in the United States – for his role as Earth Day founder.

Source: [EarthDayNetwork \(http://www.earthday.net/node/77\)](http://www.earthday.net/node/77)

Recycling Tidbits

In 2003 Minnesotans recycled 2.3 million tons of waste. Because of those efforts we reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of 2.3 million cars – Saved the equivalent amount of energy required to power 615,000 homes – Saved 232,000 tons of coal – And saved 750,000 trees. Also: The web site recycleminnesota.org reports that the national recycling industry provided: More than 56,000 public and private sector facilities – 1.1 million jobs – \$236 billion in gross annual sales and \$37 billion in annual payroll. How did you help?

Web Sites of Interest

Cabin Owners' Guide: Published by the U. of M. Extension Service. “Lake Home and Cabin Kit, Second Edition.” Information about septic systems, heating, rain gardens, etc. www.extension.umn.edu/cabin.

Plant a Tree: Another U. of M. web site. Trees can provide a natural snow-fence, minimize soil erosion, add shade value, provide cover and food for wildlife, and offer aesthetic value. www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/

Ride the Bus: Information about “going greener” from Metro Transit. www.metrotransit.org/news/stories/04_07_go-greener.asp.

How Can One Person Make a Difference?

Start small – the following items won't cost much – if anything!

1. Pay attention to how you use water. Every time you turn off the water while you're brushing your teeth, you're doing something good. Got a leaky toilet? You might be wasting 200 gallons of water a day

Try drinking tap water instead of bottled water, so you aren't wasting all that packaging as well. If you must drink bottled water, recycle the bottle.

2. Turn off lights when you're not in the room and unplug appliances when you're not using them.

3. Maintain your car. Underinflated tires decrease fuel economy by up to three percent and lead to increased pollution and higher greenhouse gas emissions [Source: EPA].

4. Recycle. You can help reduce pollution just by putting that soda can in a recycling bin.

5. If you're trying to choose between two products, pick the one with the least packaging.

Source: <http://science.howstuffworks.com/save-earth-top-ten.htm>