

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During my midweek and Sunday letters, I have frequently shared with you ways in which we can be outdoors and experience God's creation in new ways. There is so much to see and enjoy in the Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton area and other locations nearby. How thankful we can be for living in a place where we can see and enjoy the beauty of God's handiwork!

But, along with all the beauty, we know that there are negative things that are happening in our world related to climate change. We hear about ways in which we can be helping by decreasing our "carbon footprint." We can be recycling items. We can be turning off lights that we don't need to have on. We can be donating clothing and other items to thrift stores or having rummage sales, rather than throwing these items into landfills. We can be consolidating trips or carpooling, so that we are not wasting gas. We can be filling our dishwashers and washing machines to the maximum, rather than running them half full. We can be adjusting our thermostats, so we are not wasting energy, and more. All of these things are helpful to the environment.

Perhaps you have heard, that we are experiencing more storms due to climate change. In recent weeks, we have heard about the devastation of Hurricane Isaias, the wildfires in California, and the tornados that came through Osseo and other areas in Northern Wisconsin. These are but a few of the storms that we are experiencing, in part, because of climate change.

Each Sunday during our petitions we pray for God's creation. We pray for God's creation in our local area and throughout the world. We pray for the rainforests, knowing that they are being deforested; and we pray for endangered coral reefs, due to overfishing, pollution and other factors. We pray for the polar ice caps that are melting, which causes more water volume and the warming of the ocean's water. And we pray for plants, animals and other creatures whose numbers are decreasing due to these and other factors.

Our gospel passage today speaks of a storm in which Jesus walks on the water. We may recall, as well, another passage in which the disciples are afraid, and Jesus calms the storm. Through this letter, may we be reminded that we can do things, even small things, to care for creation, to help the environment, and to decrease our "carbon footprint." There are things that we can do to make a difference in God's world. There are things that we can do to care for God's creation. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy