

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this time when we are staying "Safer-At-Home," many of us have enjoyed getting outside for a walk, yard work, bird or animal watching, or some other special activity. Some of us have perhaps taken on projects that we would have normally pursued at a later time. But the warmth of the sun and the fresh air is so nice, and the time is ripe to consider what we can do to help protect the earth and vulnerable ecosystems.

Next Wednesday, April 22, is Earth Day. It is in fact, the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, and this year's theme is climate action. While Earth Day was created by former Wisconsin Governor and Senator Gaylord Nelson as a secular day, it is a day when we as Christians can think deeply about God's creation. Each Sunday in our Prayers of Intercession, we remember the earth, its ecosystems, and other creation-related themes. On Earth Day, we like many other people across the U.S. and world, remember the earth and things challenging nature's balance. Perhaps your focus this year will be on global warming, the destruction of rain forests, endangered wildlife, the lack of fresh water and food in many parts of the world, pollution, recycling, or other concerns.

On Wednesday, I would like to encourage you to think of something that you can do related to Earth Day. Perhaps it will be something with a global focus. Perhaps it will be something closer to home, like planning your vegetable garden, or if the weather is nice, beginning to stake your garden. Perhaps it will be adding prayers for God's creation to your daily prayers. Perhaps it will be creating a recycling plan for your household; looking at things you throw away that could be recycled. Perhaps it will be giving to ELCA Good Gifts or World Hunger (something that we will be pursuing as a congregation in the near future). Perhaps it will be committing to donating food on a regular basis to the Wilton Food Pantry or your local food pantry. Perhaps it will be some other creative idea, even a far-reaching idea, that you and/or your family would like to pursue.

Whatever you choose to do on Earth Day, remember that God created the earth and all that is in it! Let us give thanks and praise to God that we have plants, animals, trees, flowers, rivers, forests, bluffs, and so much to enjoy on God's earth each and every day!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Cathy