

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My letter for today is about Earth Day, which is Thursday, April 22! While Earth Day has secular roots, it seems appropriate for us to focus on it, because God created the earth and all that is in it. With this in mind, I will be presenting you with earth-related themes in my letters for today and Sunday, as well as in my May/June newsletter article.

This Sunday, we will have an earth-related theme for our worship service, too. The organization, Lutherans Restoring Creation, has provided churches throughout the U.S., with a special service. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has written a sermon for "Good Shepherd Sunday," that touches on some current Earth Day topics. It is anticipated that as many as 26,000 churches will be sharing this service with their respective assemblies.

Here is some Earth Day information to get us started:

"At the heart of Earth Day's 2021 theme, Restore Our Earth, is optimism, a critically needed sentiment in a world ravaged by both climate change and the pandemic," said Kathleen Rogers, president of EarthDay.org.

The theme of "Restore Our Earth" focuses on restoring the world's ecosystems through natural processes, emerging green technologies and innovative thinking.

"This year, we are supporting local communities and areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental issues," according to EarthDay.org. (Doyle Rice, "COVID-19 and climate, Earth Day 2021 is Thursday," *USA Today* online, April 20, 2021).

During the past year, we have prayed for areas of the U.S. and world that have been impacted by floods, wildfires, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. Scientists have pointed to climate change.

Here is a prayer for Earth Day (April 22 & Sunday, April 25) from the La Crosse Area Synod Update (newsletter)--that we never lose sight of the beauty and wonder of our world that you, Lord, have provided, give us the tools, compassion and innovative methods to preserve the earth and allow her to be fully present for future generations. Amen.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy