

Ask for action on climate change

by Leslie Sand, Care for Creation Network

Recently, four inches of rain falling in 40 minutes caused [landslides in Lansing](#), Iowa, which took out a propane tank, which caused a house to explode. A nearby campground saw an extreme flash flood event, downing trees and causing electrical damages. As this is being written, a flood warning has been issued for Allamakee and Clayton counties along the Mississippi.

Beyond our synod, Iowans' lives have been lost and upended due to flooding in nearly one quarter of Iowa counties, and Greenfield saw much of the town flattened. And that only covers the last several weeks.

We have come to realize that these are no longer freak weather events; this is a changing weather pattern, known as climate change. [Katharine Hayhoe](#) is a Christian climate scientist, and she says that we need to talk about it. The ELCA's newly released study guide for the social message "Earth's Climate Crisis" is a wonder-

ful tool for congregations to do just that—talk about it. (Find resources at the end of this article.)

As Lutherans, God calls us to care for others and all of His creation. We are good at supporting Lutheran World Relief, making quilts, sending money, and helping out at Thrivent events. These are worthwhile and important responses. Are we called to do more? Yes, and the ELCA Task Force on Civic Life and Faith defines what that looks like.

Polling shows that 70 percent of Americans want action on climate change. We need to respectfully tell our elected officials that we want solutions implemented. We can ask candidates about the issue, and vote for those who tell us they will do that work. There are many; this is not hopeless. [Project Drawdown | 100 Solutions to Reverse Global Warming | One Earth](#) is a repository of work being done globally.



To learn more about respectfully advocating for climate solutions, go to www.citizensclimate.org, where you can join Citizens' Climate Lobby and its Lutheran Action Team, www.cclusa.org/action-teams.

Check out these resources:

- [ELCA Civic Life and Faith](#)
- [ELCA Carbon Pricing Basics](#) (Oct. 2019)
- [ELCA Carbon Tax Implementation Considerations](#) (Dec. 2020)
- [ELCA Earth's Climate Crisis social message](#) (April 2023)
- [Our Kairos Moment Earth's Climate Crisis](#)

Fall Theological Conference set for Oct. 13-15

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Northeastern Iowa Synod Fall Theological Conference, set for Oct. 13-15 at the Bien Venu Event Center in Cedar Falls.

The conference will be centered on learning, camaraderie, and spiritual refreshment for active rostered ministers and those preparing to become rostered.

This year's event will give participants tools and insights for preaching in the upcoming Lectionary, Year C, beginning with Advent 2024. Featured speakers will be The Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben, association professor of New Testament at Wartburg Theological Seminary, and The Rev. Dr. Kristin Wendland, associate professor of Religion at Wartburg College.

The conference will start at 5 p.m. Sunday and conclude at 12 noon Tuesday. It will include learning sessions, worship service, devotions, lunch and time with Bishop Kevin Jones, who will discuss preaching on the Sunday after the election.

More information about the agenda, online registration and hotel reservations will be posted on the synod website, www.neiasynod.org. Questions can be directed to Pastor Liz Bell, 319-352-1414.

