

What is your congregation doing to care for creation?

by Donna Rasmussen, Care for Creation Network

We want to hear from you! The Northeastern Iowa Care for Creation Network has sent a survey to all congregations, colleges, camps and organizations in the Synod to gather information about:

- current creation care activities in the synod,
- what projects/activities could be done with guidance from the Care for Creation Network, and
- who is willing to share their knowledge with others.

The ELCA adopted a resolution at the Churchwide Assembly in 2022 to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by 50 percent by 2030. The

Northeastern Iowa Synod adopted a resolution in 2023 setting the same goal for the synod's congregations, educational facilities, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities. The Care for Creation Network of the Northeastern Iowa Synod has been working to determine how best to help member churches make progress along this path.

Benefits of this work will be significant cost savings to congregations and organizations that implement efficiency measures and reduce their carbon footprint. The purpose of the survey is to provide some information about the benefits, gather information to determine what measures your

organization has taken already and the realized benefits, what help your organization might want or need, and what advice or assistance your organization may be able to offer others wanting to do similar projects.

Please assign someone from your congregation or organization to complete the survey by Feb. 28, 2025. If you would like to receive the link in order to complete the survey for your congregation or organization, please email rdrasmussen@outlook.com. Survey results will be available at the 2025 Synod Assembly.

Thank you!

GLOBAL CHURCH TOGETHER

Area pastors to join ELCA delegation trip to Namibia

Three pastors from the Northeastern Iowa Synod will join an ELCA delegation to Namibia in February to witness the historic installation of the first female bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN).

Pastor Dena Gable of St. Timothy, Hudson; Pastor Mike Wilker of First, Decorah; and Pastor Margaret Yacke-Juleen of the One in Faith Parish in Strawberry Point, Elkader and Volga; will join nine other representatives from the Southwestern Washington Synod, New Jersey Synod and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod for the trip to Windhoek, Namibia. All four synods have companion synod relationships with the three churches of Namibia.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Namibia (ELCIN) made history in August when the Rev. Hilja Nghaangulwa was elected as the first woman to serve as a diocesan bishop in Namibia. She will be installed as bishop for the Eastern Diocese of the ELCIN. Namibia's first female president, newly elected Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, will be among those attending the installation.

The delegation will also witness the installation of the Rev. Alfredo Barros of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola, which is joining the companion relationship with Namibia.

Bishop Kevin Jones has hand-carved wooden prayer birds for the group to take as gifts on behalf of the



Prayer birds hand-carved by Bishop Kevin Jones

Northeastern Iowa Synod. As he carved each bird, Jones prayed for the person who will receive the bird. The birds were carved from firewood harvested at Ewalu Bible Camp near Strawberry Point.

The Northeastern Iowa Synod has been in a synod companion relationship with the three churches of Namibia since 1990.