



## 2010 Outdoor Ministries Curriculum

### ***Keeping the Earth***

Theme Verse: “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.”  
Romans 8:19

Even in the midst of sometimes huge environmental challenges in our world, we can begin to view “creation's eager longing” as a gracious invitation from our God. And we know that when God calls, God also supplies what we need, to fulfill that call. We are being invited to know ourselves more deeply, as God's children. We are being invited to more truly understand our place in God's world. We are being invited to go forth more hopeful, and inspired, to look for ways to “green” our homes and our congregations and more faithfully care for creation.

“We testify to the hope that inspires and encourages us. We announce this hope to every people, and witness to the renewing work of the Spirit of God. We are to be a herald here and now to the new creation yet to come, a living model. It is in hope of God's promised fulfillment that we hear the call to justice; it is in hope that we take action. When we act interdependently and in solidarity with creation, we do justice. We serve and keep the earth trusting its bounty can be sufficient for all, and sustainable.

*Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice (ELCA, 1993)*

This resource includes theme-related Bible studies and supplementary activities for five age-groups: lower and upper elementary, junior and senior high and adult. This is a CD-ROM version of the curriculum. All contents are reproducible for local use.

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## Week at a Glance: Keeping the Earth

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. (Romans 8:19)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Daily Bible Text</u>	<u>Catechism Connection</u>	<u>Focus Points</u>	<u>Additional Bible References</u>
1	<b>Keeping the Earth</b>	<b>Genesis 1:26—2:1</b> Made in God's Image Key Verse: 26	The First Article of The Apostles' Creed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are made in God's image.</li> <li>• We care for earth as God cares for us.</li> <li>• Our dominion is a sacred trust and humbling responsibility.</li> <li>• We keep the earth out of gratitude, humility, awe, and wonder.</li> </ul>	Psalm 8:1, 3-9 Job 38:1-7 Matthew 6:25-33
2	<b>Keeping the Covenant</b>	<b>Genesis 9:8-17</b> God's Covenant Is with All Creation Key Verses: 9-10	The Fifth Commandment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's covenant is with humans and all creatures.</li> <li>• Humans are to serve, keep, and protect all of creation.</li> <li>• When we break the covenant, the earth suffers with us.</li> <li>• We are called to proclaim good news to the whole creation.</li> </ul>	Genesis 2:4b-8, 15 Isaiah 24:4-5 Mark 16:15
3	<b>Keeping Life Abundant</b>	<b>John 15:1-8</b> Abiding in the Vine Key Verse: 5	The Second and The Third Petitions of the Lord's Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When we abide in Christ we will bring forth fruit, for the healing of the world.</li> <li>• Jesus, the Bread of Life, nourishes/sustains us.</li> <li>• The abundant life is not based on how much stuff we have.</li> <li>• Creation welcomes us when we are filled with love, mercy, peace, and justice.</li> </ul>	John 10:10b John 6:31-35 John 7:37-39a Isaiah 55:10-12
4	<b>Keeping the Song Alive</b>	<b>Psalm 19:1-4</b> Joining the Hymn of All Creation Key Verses: 3-4	The Third Article of The Apostles' Creed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of creation sings praises to God/Jesus.</li> <li>• It is like a song, a voice that flows through all of creation.</li> <li>• The hymn of creation arises out of the proper functioning/integrity of a healthy creation.</li> <li>• The Spirit helps us to hear/join the song.</li> </ul>	Psalm 148 Psalm 104:10-30 Psalm 96:11-13 Revelation 5:13-14
5	<b>Keeping Creation</b>	<b>Luke 19:36-40</b> Finding Our Voice Key Verses: 39-40	The Sacrament of Holy Baptism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What and who cries out to Jesus today?</li> <li>• God's people are called to uphold justice and reconciliation, for all members of creation.</li> <li>• Creation waits, with eager longing, for us.</li> </ul>	Amos 5:21-24 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Romans 8:18-26