ENVIRONMENT EVENT IDEAS:

• **Make plastic bag mats out of leftover plastic bags for use by someone who is homeless to lay on to stay off the ground**
• **Have a creation Sunday service**
• **Bless animals as part of a creation celebration during a creation Sunday service**
• **Do a community garden, perhaps one that is for both the church and the food pantry**
• **Focus on care for creation with a Bible School**
• **Have an event and bring animals to show the greater scope of creation**
• **Doing something with milkweed for Monarch butterflies**
• **Create a new tree planting (maybe along with a speaker to teach participants about trees, carbon sequestration)**
• **Work on moving from Styrofoam or single-serve to reusable or biodegradable**
• **Do an environment event or class at NIU’s Loredo Taft campus**
• **Do a God’s work our hands event focused on the environment**
• **Volunteer at LOMC**
• **Buy cloth grocery bags potentially having them created with the name of our church, picture of the church, or a saying that we’re fond of at the church.**
• **Have an Earth Day speaker or have some sort of Earth worship**
• **Have a global warming or climate change expert come and speak to the congregation or community (one that was suggested was Ray Emperur)**
• **Continue to work on energy conservation at church, home, and work**
• **Do more political lobbying for more renewable energy**
• **Host a recycling event as an Outreach to other churches and mental health programs**
• **Do a raffle when we use our own items at church group activities- (ex. when we use our own plates or forks and then take them home to clean them)**
• **Do a sports team themed recycling challenge like your team is the Packers/Bears, you’re the Cubs/Cardinals see how much stuff you can recycle**
• **In the community do a church versus Church challenge- How many cans, bags, weight, can you recycle? or a community wide challenge...**
• **Recycle old clothes into quilts**
• Encourage recycling at church events: Synod Assembly, CRE
• Put up a list of places to take stuff to recycle it in your community
• Use our contacts in the community to create an recycling effort or community garden
• Gather a list of all those involved in environmental events, get media involved, get attention
• Take some before and after pictures at these events and post them on our Facebook, webpage, Instagram...etc.
• God's work our hands: maybe an LOMC day or do something at the park district
• Adopt a Highway or river
• Giveaway wash pans- maybe do that through the food pantry
• Have a giveaway day: LED light bulbs, tote bags, quarters for doing laundry
• It was suggested that environment events not necessarily be in front of the church so that people who have some trepidation about religious organizations might feel more free to come
• Use our ecumenical partnerships to do more than just an event at our church but maybe to do an event for the community
• Have a free fruit and veggie day
• Do an art show or an essay contest about why taking care of the environment is important- with a prize
• Have a month which has several different environmental events
• Take a look at solar, wind, geothermal power as different power options for our church buildings
• Use more Environmentally safe cleaning supplies
• Do a soil stewardship week, Rogation Sunday
• Try to use extension services from some of the local colleges, Park Districts, Farm Bureaus to involve outside agencies as well