

Workshop Leader,

The primary purpose of this disk is the included PowerPoint presentation “2016 Taskforce on Climate Change.” This presentation includes everything you need to lead a session on the question of climate change. It gives a brief overview of the stewardship of creation (the theological implications), what we know of climate change (the scientific implications), and some ideas on what we may do next.

To begin, we suggest opening the PowerPoint presentation and printing the “notes.” To do so, print the slides as you normally would, but in the print dialogue find the option “Print What.” On the dropdown menu, click “Notes.” Most slides contain additional info, extended quotations, citations, and more. If anyone has a question on a particular slide, hopefully the notes will help.

The PowerPoint also contains six videos. Five of them were gathered from various sources and one produced by this taskforce. It is our hope that the inclusion of media will make your time together even more energetic and memorable. We encourage you to explore each of their sources if there is an interest.

If you find in your context that one topic is more engaging than another, then we encourage you to continue the discussion by exploring that topic specifically. In the folder “Other Resources,” you will find two more presentations on what you can do to ‘green’ your church (and possibly home and workplace). For a book/Bible study, we recommend “Together with All Creatures: Caring for God's Living Earth,” produced and published by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. To continue exploring the science behind climate change, the cited sources are a great place to start (NASA, the EPA, NOAA, and so on).

It is our hope that this introduction to the subject will inspire further discussions and efforts in your congregation and community.

Rev. Scott Ralston, Chair

Climate Change Task Force 2016

Social Ministry Committee

Northern Illinois Synod

ELCA