



Christian Education Network

of the ELCA

"... that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love ..."

Colossians 2:2

Our Mission: Supporting lifelong faith formation in the home and congregation



Prayer Pause

O God, complete the work you have begun in us. Release through us a flow of mercy and gentleness that will bring: water where there is desert, healing where there is hurt, peace where there is violence, beauty where there is ugliness, justice where there is brokenness, beginnings where there are dead ends.

Waken in us gratitude for our lives, love for every living thing, joy in what is human and holy, praise for you. Renew our faith that you are God beyond our grasp but within our reach; past our knowing but within our searching; destroyer of illusions, creator of dreams; Source of silence and music, light and darkness, death and life.

O keeper of Promises, composer of grace, grant us prayer in our hearts, trust at our core, songs for our journey, and a sense of your presence.

Adapted from *Guerrillas of Grace* by Ted Loder

A Message from Our President, Diane McGeoch

Looking Ahead in Hope

Christian education and faith formation are constant continual processes of looking ahead. We may be planning for Lent and Easter before Epiphany is over. We are looking forward to the season of Easter sometimes long before the season of Spring arrives in our area. We may be thinking of Pentecost and noting where the red construction paper is stored. We save the red for Reformation Sunday even when that day is well ahead on the calendar. All Saints Sunday, Christ the King, and then we are in the season of Advent and a new church year begins.

The seasons of the church year don't always exactly correspond to the seasons of nature. I remember an Easter egg hunt done in the snow, the colors of the eggs really stood out and they were collected in record time! The seasons of the church year propel us forward, to think of those celebrations and faith forming activities that are yet to be. The seasons of the church year fill us with hope and anticipation, and for those of us in planning and leadership roles, sometimes dread and anxiety. We are managing and juggling a lot these days, with constantly evolving practices, while trying to build faith in many ages and in widely different situations. Anxiety is normal.

[Continue Reading the Article](#)

Learning Strategies and Resources for Boundless Creation

ReNew: The Green VBS

Celebrate God's creation this summer with [ReNew VBS](#). This VBS is 100% downloadable! ReNew is a 5-day curriculum that empowers kids in grades PreK-Grade 6 to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world. Each day, kids will explore Jesus' Parable of the Sower with three age-appropriate activities that help kids learn how to care for God's creation.



Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice

Wondering at Creation by Rev. Dr. Brian Peterson, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, is an [ELCA resource](#) which helps youth explore the intersection of faith and science and consider what it means to be a steward of creation. A webinar and PowerPoint also available in the archive. Part of the Practicing Discipleship Initiative 2016 through the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.



God's Creation PREACHES! Psalm 19 Links Nature and Torah

God's Creation preaches? How can this be? We have to tune our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to the language of Creation. This is part of the [EcoPreacher 1-2-3 series](#) to equip pastors and congregations for engaging the Bible through an ecological lens.

ecoPreacher

Earth Day in Hawaii: 6 Ways to Honor God's 'Aina

In Hawaii, the idea of loving and caring for the land is very important and central to the island culture. The phrase "malama 'aina" is common and can be seen on signs throughout the islands. The Hawaiian word malama means "to care of or preserver, protect, and maintain" and 'aina refers to "land." Aloha 'aina, or love of the land is a value that is taught to even the smallest of children. The goals of aloha 'aina are to find harmony between human health and the health of the land through the protection and care of the Earth.

building faith

This [Building Faith resource](#) presents ideas to honor God's land based in Hawaiian tradition.

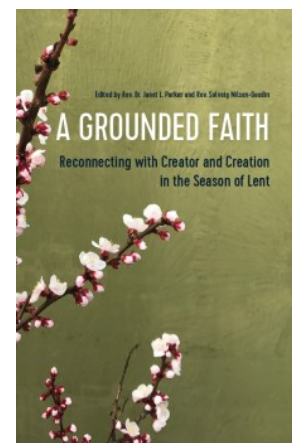
Check out additional Boundless Creation resources on our [website](#)!

Good Reads

Title: A Grounded Faith: Reconnection with Creator and Creation in the Season of Lent

Author: Randy Woodley

A Grounded Faith is designed to be a Lenten companion to Becoming Rooted, although it can also be used as a stand-alone Lenten resource. The devotional invites participants to reconnect with our Creator and with Creation as a core dimension of Christian practice. Journey with the authors through 40 days of exploring Lenten themes of sin, confession, repentance, renewal, the way of the cross, and the miracle of the resurrection in dialogue with Scripture and an indigenous worldview.



Order the e-book or print copy [here](#).



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Christian Education Network of the ELCA

Vision Statement



Check out our Facebook group and join the conversations!

Building a community which equips, encourages and empowers those engaged in lifelong faith formation in a changing world, the CENetwork will:

- Identify and evaluate resources and educational opportunities
- Facilitate communication and conversations
- Offer guidance, networking and mutual support
- Nurture spiritual growth online and face-to-face

Check out our latest [Pinterest](#) boards!



How You Can Support the Christian Education Network

You can become a member or make a one-time donation via PayPal on our [website](#); or, you can purchase from [AmazonSmile](#) and designate The Christian Education Network as your charity. We receive a percentage of the proceeds!

Contact Us

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