

**The Green Steward**  
**The Quarterly Newsletter of the**  
**Environmental Concerns Working Group**  
**Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA**

**Winter 2007**

**Join Our Next Meeting; February 2, 2008**

**New Project at St. James, Chicago**

The newest project funded by the Energy Revolving Loan Fund of the Metro Chicago Synod is about to begin at St. James Lutheran Church, 7400 W. Foster Ave., on Chicago's Northwest Side. The Environmental Concerns Working Group in January approved a loan of \$5,553 to underwrite a project to upgrade lighting at the church, led by its pastor, the Rev. Susan Schneider.

As it often does in helping initiate new congregational projects, the Environmental Concerns Working Group will hold its next meeting at St. James. Often the working group conducts its meeting amid a "working day," in which members assist the congregation with the work of disassembling old ballasts and fixtures and installing the new equipment.

The Working Group is always eager for new volunteers and new input. Those receiving this newsletter are welcome to our meetings. The next meeting will take place at St. James Lutheran Church beginning at 9:30 a.m., probably ending around noon. For more information, call chair Jim Schwab at 773-384-4754.

**St. Paul's Completes Synod Energy Project**

The latest congregation to complete an energy efficiency retrofit project with assistance from the synod's Energy Revolving Loan Fund is St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 545 S. Ardmore, in Villa Park. Pastor Stephen H. Swanson and the church council signed an agreement last year for a \$4,500 loan from the fund, later supplemented with an additional \$900, to be repaid at \$150 per month over 30 months. However, the congregation is also benefiting from a \$4,400 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Fund (ICECF) to support lighting improvements in its day care in the church basement. During two fall Saturday mornings, the Environmental Concerns Working Group supported hard-working volunteers who had been investing many of their Saturday mornings to do the extensive renovations in their own church building. This followed completion of earlier work last year that completed a project at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 200 S. Wille St., in Mount Prospect, a sizeable undertaking that involved more than a dozen volunteers donating time on successive weekends in late summer and early fall.

**News to Share?**

Share the good news from your own congregation. Discuss your latest environmental stewardship, share your lessons learned, and help grow the experience and knowledge base of other congregations. Whether your congregation is recycling, advocating, replanting, or undertaking the kinds of energy efficiency projects cited above, share the news by sending it to us for use in future newsletters. Send your contributions to Jim Schwab at jimjeanschwab@att.net.

**Add to Our Contacts List**

Does someone in your congregation need to receive our newsletter in the future? Do you have members particularly concerned about Christian care of creation? This is our second issue, and we hope to discuss more issues, share more news, and spread the vision of Christian environmental stewardship throughout the synod. People can add themselves to our future distribution list by sending a note with their e-mail address to Jim Schwab, chair of the Working Group, at jimjeanschwab@att.net. We will be happy to add to our recipients list. We will also be happy to receive news or ideas from contributors.