



SMLC Green Team

Adult Forum
June 11, 2017



Pop Quiz

- Where was this picture taken?

A. Rancocas Creek

B. The Jersey Shore

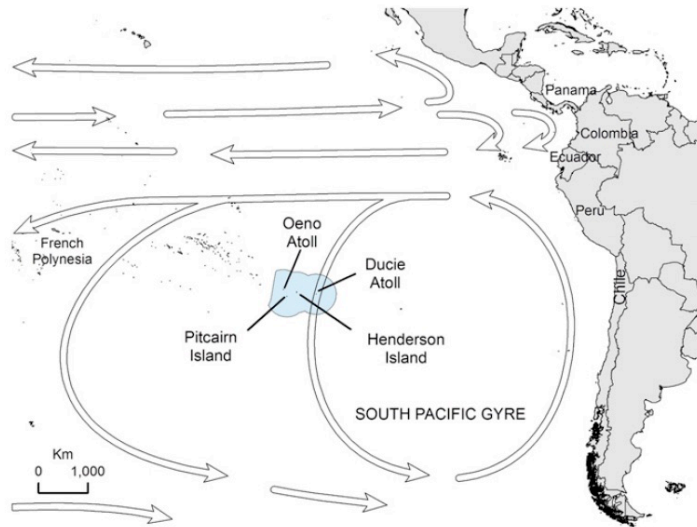
C. A remote, uninhabited island in the South Pacific





C. A remote, uninhabited island in the South Pacific

- Henderson Island
- UNSECO World Heritage Site



- **37.7 million debris items**
- **Accumulating 3,700 pieces/day**





The ELCA Statement on Environment (1993)

- Human beings are called to care for the creation because we are full participants in the creation itself.
- The way we are to participate should imitate the way God cares for the creation--as a servant king.
- Rooted in the vision of God's care for creation while troubled by signs of sin and yet empowered by the hope of creation's fulfillment, the statement calls people of faith to carry out a calling to care for creation guided by principles of justice.



The ELCA Statement on Environment (1993)



We model God's justice by striving to embody 4 four principles in the face of the intricate complexity of creation and of the human community:

- **Participation**—All human beings are entitled to a voice and to have their interests considered when decisions are made affecting the creation and its resources. Human beings should be advocates for the non-human parts of creation;
- **Solidarity**—We acknowledge our interdependence with other creatures, and act both locally and globally on behalf of all creation, especially those parts that are most vulnerable and at greatest risk;
- **Sufficiency**—We are to place priority on meeting the basic needs of all humanity and all creatures and since the earth's resources are finite, this has implications for human acquisition and consumption patterns;
- **Sustainability**—We should act so as to provide "an acceptable quality of life for present generations without compromising that of future generations."



The ELCA Statement on Environment (1993)



Task for the Church:

- Creation-awareness and education
- Imitate God's care for creation in our life and activity as a church
- Be a community of moral deliberation, and a venue for civic deliberation about caring for creation
- Provide for and foster public policy advocacy
- Foster and support corporate social responsibility



St. Matthew Green Team

Mission: "to reveal the connection of our congregation and community to God's presence in the natural world, by fostering a culture of environmental reflection, engagement and stewardship."





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...and have FUN!!





St. Matthew Green Team

- Publicize our presence and mission; identify and enlist motivated members; organize the team
- Outline a church “sustainability plan”
- Identify and plan opportunities for environmental engagement, education and volunteerism, within our congregation and community
 - Informational/lecture series (theological, ecological)
 - “Green” volunteering opportunities and events
 - Sponsoring and liaising with local/regional groups



Contacts and Resources

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- <https://www.facebook.com/smlcmoores town/>

Lutheran and Interfaith Environmental Resources:

- <http://www.greenfaith.org/>
- <http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>
- <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Caring-for-Creation>
- <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy>
- <http://www.eco-justice.org/CurricReview.asp>