

# Congratulations

Congratulations LEA

Today we launch

## THE EARTH CARE CHARTER

A major step forward  
in Lutheran Education

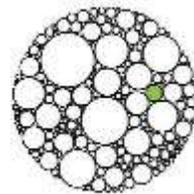
## THE EARTH CARE CHARTER

### Six Principles & Six Missions

#### AIM

- Our Goal is for the Earth Care Charter to become a foundation for planning Earth Care so that students, young and old, ***become passionate about planet Earth*** and, in the learning process, have rich experiences of:
  - Wonder
  - Mystery
  - Identity
  - Caring

#### LOGO



EARTH  
CARE  
CHARTER

## *Principle One: Planet Earth is a Site for Celebration*

- Planet Earth is a unique site in the cosmos, a planet filled with wonders of creation, a free gift of the Creator.
- It's time to get excited. Why?



## *Planet Earth is a Cosmic Sanctuary*

**Born as a Fierce Fireball**



**Earth becomes Safe Sanctuary**

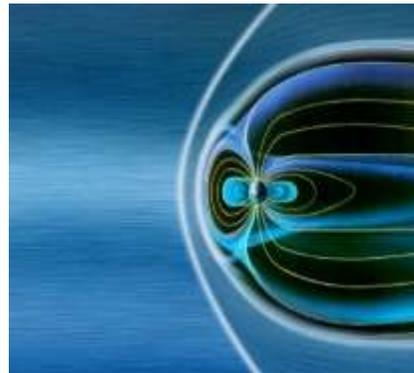


## *A Sanctuary for Life to Evolve and Be Safe*

**Life Protected by The Blue Ring called  
Atmosphere**



**Life on Earth protected by Earth's  
Magnetsphere**



## **Planet Earth is an Oasis in Space After the Big Bang came the Tiny Touch**

**The Mystery called Water**



**A Place for Life in Barren Space**



## *The Ultimate Wonder Called Earth*

That once raging ball of fire  
from among the millions in  
the cosmos would be chosen  
to become a sanctuary for life,  
a safe cosmic home  
an oasis in space  
where we are privileged to live  
and celebrate.



## *And a Sacred Site filled with Presence*

### **Isaiah's Vision (6.3)**

- Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, the whole Earth is filled with your presence!
- The same **Presence** (*kabod*) that covered Sinai, filled the tabernacle and the holy of holies in the temple also fills Earth
- Planet Earth is a **holy of holies** in the cosmos, a sanctuary for life **and** the Creator Spirit

### **Sunset as Symbol/Sign of Presence**



## Mission One: *Boldly Celebrate Earth as a Cosmic Sanctuary filled with Wonders and Sustain our Planet as a Precious Habitat for Life*

- Why Pollute a Sacred Site like this?



- We are called to celebrate Earth and experience its wonders
- We are called to be **priests** who celebrate Presence in our planet
- We are called to **be custodians** who find ways to prevent polluting our sacred site and home
- Why not celebrate the wonder of our planet home, an oasis in space?

*Image from Cornerstone College  
by a final year student*



“When I wake in the morning I now realise I am in a sacred site, a cosmic sanctuary”

## *Principle Two: Planet Earth is a Book of Nature*



### *Principle Two: Planet Earth is a Book of Nature*

**Planet Earth is a Book  
of Nature in the library  
called Creation, a rare  
volume filled with  
stories, science and  
stunning images**



## *The Book of Nature in Creation*

### Many ways to read this Book

The title is not just poetic language  
 A term used by scientists – old and new  
 A book parallel to the Bible - Luther  
 A text book for science, art, maths and literature and philosophy  
 A book filled with stories, history, wonders, science and mystery  
 A landscape to be read as Aborigines do

### St Paul's Way – Romans 1.20

*Ever since the creation of the world, God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been **clearly seen** through the things God has made.*

## *Reading the Book of Nature*

How would a botanist read this page?



How would a geologist read this page?

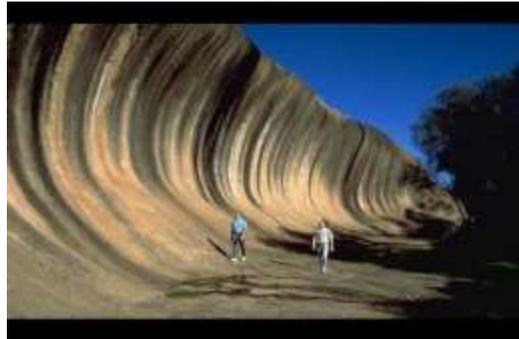


## *Reading the Book of Nature*

**How would an Artist read this Page?**



**What Dreaming story would a local  
Aborigine read on this page?**



The Wise, the Scientists of old, discerned/read  
Wisdom/Knowledge innate in Nature

**Go to the ant, observe its way/wisdom  
and be wise. Prov. 6.6**



**Who put Wisdom in the Clouds?  
Job 38.36**



## A Personal Reading from the Book of Nature

Godwit Wisdom – flight together



Godwit Wisdom – common destination



**Mission Two: *Read the Book of Nature closely, research its hidden wisdom, tell its fascinating stories and preserve its beautiful images for posterity.***

- Select the Book of Nature as a specific text book!
- Record findings and compare them with those of other scientists.
- Explore the Wisdom/Know-how in creatures – e.g., why, how, when birds migrate across the Pacific?
- Engage an Aborigine to read the landscape in your regions



*Children at Tanunda Pre-school Reading the Book of Nature in their Bush Block/Book*



**Principle 3**  
**Earth is a Web of Mysteries**



## *Principle Three: A Web of Mysteries*

**Planet Earth is  
wondrous web  
of inter-related forces,  
mysteries and mazes  
where we are all inter-  
connected  
and all belong.**



## *Cosmologies – How things Relate/Connect*

- The Flat Earth Cosmology with heaven above & Earth below
- The Heliocentric Cosmology that placed the sun in the centre &...
- The Evolutionary Cosmology where all starts with a Big Bang and an ever expanding chaos
- The Ecological Worldview where all things/forces/lives/minds are inter-connected and 'balanced'



## *The World View of Ecology*

### **Towards an Eco-consciousness**

- Calls for an eco-conversion?  
Ecology is more than another science!
- A new consciousness of being connected with the whole cosmos
- An awareness of all the patterns and pulses that permeate our planet and our brains
- An end to conflicting dualities and a sensing that all forces are balanced in a unity – the universe!

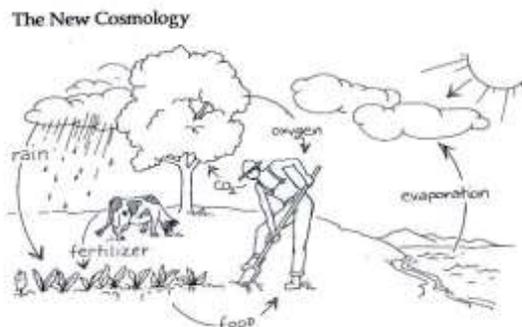
### **The Symbol of the Spider Web**



## *All species interconnected with each of us*

As **David Suzuki** says:

No species exists in isolation from all others. In fact today's estimated 30 million species are all connected through the intersection of their life cycles...together all species make up one immense web of interconnections that binds all beings to each other and the physical components of the planet.



## *Job's Eco-tour of the Cosmos – filled with Riddles/Mysteries*

- Job, do you understand the blueprint of the cosmos? Explain the design of the universe!
- If I take you back to the very beginning can you tell who was the mid-wife when baby Sea was born or how the edifice called Earth was constructed?
- And who put Wisdom in the clouds so they know when you send rain?
- Do you know how the laws of space effect the *modus operandi* on Earth?
- “I have heard of you with my ears, but now my eyes ‘see’ you” (42.5) Where? In the blueprint and wonders of creation!



*Mission Three: Include Eco-tours across the curriculum, probe wondrous stories of our links with Earth and protect the mysteries that bind us.*



## The Ultimate Mystery

### Searching for the Spiritual

*On an eco-tour, like that of Job, we need to ask where we see the Spirit/spiritual, an innate impulse, a deep inter-connecting force—like an eternal spider—winding a life-giving web of mysteries that connects each of us with all the life forces of the planet and ultimately with the cosmos?*

### The Cosmos with which we are Connected by an innate Impulse



## Which eco-tour would connect you with the mysteries of the planet?

Do you feel connected with coral or fish or sharks?



Do you feel connected with mountains or snow or clouds?



## Eden at St Jacobi - Angaston

A web of mysteries explored in Eden



Exploring the Web at Angaston



## Principle 4 Earth is a Family Tree



## *Principle Four: A Family Tree*

Planet Earth  
is the ancestral head of  
a tree of living creatures  
with a family history  
that is vital for all  
members  
of her evolving family.



## *Our Maternal Ancestor – Mother Earth*

### Earth is our Mother

- All life that we know exists originates in Earth
- That means Earth is a Mother, our maternal ancestor
- And we are Earth children, born of Earth
- We are **Earth beings** in a family of Earth beings

### An Image of the Primordial Womb



# *The Exciting Mystery of Evolution*

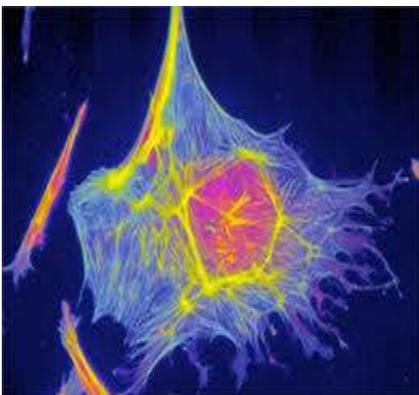
## **Our Earliest Kin**

- Evolution is the exciting mystery of how life emerged from Earth
- This began billions of years ago
- Some the earliest life forms were stromatolites once deep in the ocean – found in the Flinders Ranges
- Our earliest kin were born in the ocean 4.6 Billion years ago – time to celebrate their birthday?

## **Image of a Stromatolite**



## *Our Ocean Kin - Early Life Forms*



## Country Cousins - Recent Relatives

### Early Hominids – Recent Relatives



### Our Identity – As Earth Beings

Tracing our family tree means learning to link up with our kin

That means that we are **Earth Beings**...no just human beings

Aborigines have long sensed their kinship – their Dreaming link— with other living creatures.

## Back to the Bible

### Humans Created of Earth/in Earth

- Adam means 'Earth being' a creature made of clay/earth, just like all the animals
- The **Psalmist (139)** celebrates that: "I was knit together in my mother's womb, fearfully and wonderfully made, intricately wrought by God" WHERE?
- "**In the depths of Earth!**"
- Humans have been 'Earth beings' from the beginning!

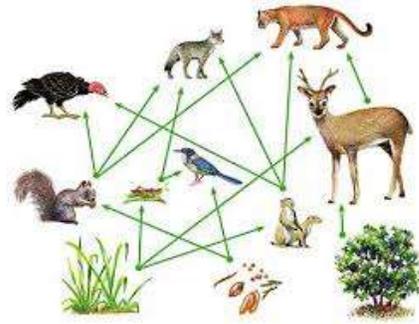
### The Mystery of Creation by Evolution

- There are many stories about how Earth was born, constructed or created in the Bible
- Evolution is the amazing new way that we now know was the process God employed to create our planet into a living sanctuary
- Luther said: God is in, with and under everything – from stones to stromatolites, from hominids to humans!

## *Mission Four: Carefully trace the evolution of life in Earth, remember our ancestors, connect with our kin and rescue our endangered relatives*

- Time to trace & celebrate

The mystery of evolution as God's amazing mode of creation  
 Links with our relatives/dreamings  
 The gift of life from our Mother  
 That we are EARTH BEINGS made of matter, breath and mystery



***Time to celebrate Our Mother  
 Earth's Birthday on Mother's Day?***

## *Endangered Species/Kin*

### Rare – Marvellous Humming Bird



### How do we locate and find our endangered relatives in Australia

#### **Snow Leopard**

Name: Snow Leopard  
 Class: Mammal  
 Status: Endangered  
 Habitat: Eastern Indian

Range: below 250

Reason: Diet, Climatic change



## *Principle Five Earth is a Caring Mother*



### *Principle Five: Earth is a Caring Mother*

Planet Earth has  
nurtured  
her children for  
millennia  
and faced them with a  
life  
of caring and tough  
love.



## *Nurturing Love of Mother Earth*

### **Nurturing us with Life every Day**

- With daily food and water
- With gifts of nature
- With habitat and home
- With community of Earth Beings
- With atmosphere and oxygen
- With safeguards

***Sola gratia*** – All of this is free

### **Peace on Earth from Earth**



## *Natural Phenomena: Disasters or Blessings?*

### **We also face tough times**

- As children of our mother we are confronted by:
- Earthquakes & Tornadoes
- Bushfires & Floods

Why? Disasters or Benefits?

Are they just evidence of our fragile planet under great pressure?

The tough love of Earth to keep Earth strong and safe as our cosmic sanctuary?

Lessons being taught by our Mother?

### **A father after a Tsunami**



## Earth is a Fragile Sanctuary – How?

### Earthquakes reflect Earth's Tough Love

*When the solar wind comes blasting at four hundred kilometres per second, threatening to bombard us with lethal radiation and strip our planet of its atmosphere, we are shielded by Earth's magnetic field.*

*The generator of this field is the fiery sea of molten metal on which the jigsaw puzzles of Earth's crust float, jostling and colliding, buckling the Earth, sending shock waves.*

*So when the earthquake wrecks havoc, and the tsunami wipes out villages, don't see this as proof of a world gone wrong. Don't ask why God allows this to happen. What makes our world habitable is what makes it dangerous.*

*Your life is forged in the volcano. You owe your existence to the earthquake. Now that's tough love!! John Pfitzner*

### Aftermath of an Earthquake



## Mission Five: Become aware of how planet Earth has nurtured us and learn from her to survive on a fragile Earth

### At assembly

- Today we **name Earth** as our Mother who has nurtured us for millennia –v- Earth a mere matter
- Today we announce that we will nurture/care for her rather than exploit her out of greed or ignorance - v- consumerism
- Today we celebrate that we are **Earth Beings** who love their Mother -- also in worship

### The model of St Francis



# Principle Six

***Earth is a  
Wounded  
Planet (&  
Parent)***



***Principle Six: Earth is a Wounded Planet***

***Planet Earth has been  
wounded by our crimes  
against creation and is  
calling for personal care  
from her children  
and deep compassion  
from the Creator Spirit***



## *The Wounds from Global Warming*

**Global Warming – melting Ice Caps**



**Global Warming – rising Oceans**



## *The Wounds of Mother Earth*

**Rampant Deforestation**



**Pollution of the Oceans**



## *The Weeping of Mother Earth*

### Who Listens to her cry?

### Prophets like Jeremiah, Joel & Paul

- For this the Earth shall mourn and the skies above be black.
- Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard...It mourns to me.
- Even the wild beasts cry unto you
- The whole creation has been groaning in travail until now

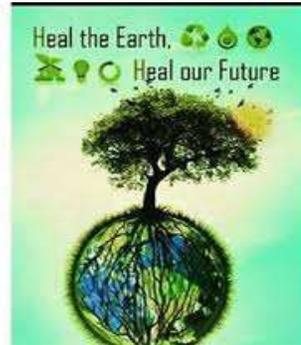
## *The Healing of Mother Earth*

- The Earth is filled with the compassion (*chesed*) of the Creator Spirit (Ps. 33.5)
- The Spirit is pleading with the Creator on our behalf and on behalf of creation (Rom.8.26-27)
- The Cosmic Christ, the compassionate presence of the Creator effects the healing and reconciliation of 'all things' (Col. 1.15-20)



## *Mission Six: An Earth Care Program*

Make a commitment to hear the voice of our wounded planet and establish a dedicated Earth Care program designed to provide healing and restoration for planet Earth.



## An Earth Care Program Involving:

- A public announcement the community is Earth Care conscious checking its prints
- Regular exercises in listening to the cries of Earth in worship and walks
- Finding ways to heal the wounds of Earth is the community and surrounding domains of nature
- Exploring how the Gospel is a message/force for healing the planet
- “Preach the Gospel to the whole creation” Mark 16.15



*Images from the eco-classroom  
at Tatachilla School*



*Yes, time to get passionate about  
our amazing planet Earth!  
Let's make the Earth Care Charter  
more than another poster!  
I hereby launch  
**THE EARTH CARE CHARTER**  
and celebrate our mother  
EARTH!*

## *Earth Care Symbols*



## *The Creator Spirit is Deep in Earth*

### **In Aboriginal Faith**

- The land is a living place made up of sky, clouds, rivers, trees, wind, the sand; and the Spirit has planted my spirit there, in my own country. It is something—and yet not a thing—it is a living entity. It belongs to me, I belong to it! I rest in it. I come from there.

Patrick Dodson

### **In Biblical Faith**

- When you hide your face they are dismayed, when you take away your breath, they die.
- When you send forth your breath/Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.
- May your presence of the Lord endure forever, and may the Lord rejoice in his works (Ps. 104.29-32)