

Challenge Three

A 2020 Lutheran school will be

PLANET CONSCIOUS

living on Earth as our fragile home, aware of a new global consciousness and inter-connectedness

And be faith informed by

Finitum capax infiniti

the mystery that the finite embraces the infinite, that the material holds the spiritual and that God's presence is in, with and under every piece of this planet



1. Exploring the Mystery

As you explore this mystery, reflect on those dimensions of the infinite presence of God that you have experienced or discerned during your own life. Explore the reality that planet Earth is more than mere matter. Earth is, in truth, a sacred site filled with God's presence. What are the implications of this reality?

2. Facing the Challenge

What dimensions of this challenge are especially confronting and difficult to face? What are the issues associated with planet consciousness that you believe demand immediate consideration in our schools?

Conduct a group audit.

Share examples of where you or your school has moved towards being an eco-school and/or part of a planet conscious community.

3. Planning a Vision and a Strategy

Dream about what your school would do and be if it chose to become planet conscious, both in terms of ecology and culture. What strategies would you employ to enable this dream to come true?

4. Resources

- Christenson, Tom 2004. Eight focal Lutheran Themes: Creation, *The gift and task of Lutheran higher education* [p37-42], AugsburgFortress, 2004
- Diamond, Jared 2005. *Collapse. How Societies Choose to Fail or Survive*. Melbourne: Penguin
- Hart, John 2004. *What are They Saying about Environmental Theology*. New York: Paulist Press.
- Leal, Robert Barry 2004. *The Environment and Christian Faith*. Sydney: St Pauls.
- Podlich, Aub 2005. *In Obum Scrub*, The Lutheran, 30 May 2005
- Podlich, Aub. *Living Faithfully in God's Creation* [available from LEA office]
- Suzuki, David and Vanderlinden, Kathy 1999. *You are the Earth*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin.