



## The Synod Pollinator Project

An initiative of the NE MN EcoFaith Network and the Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Pollinators are endangered by the loss of natural habitat. We need them. And they need us.

*Join the Plot.* Become a Pollinator Sanctuary Congregation.

The Synod Pollinator Project began in 2022 as a **pilot project of the synod's EcoFaith Network**. Six congregations received mentoring and seed packets of pollinator friendly native plants. Four others joined on their own. Based on what we learned, the **pollinator project steering committee** began planning to invite and equip every congregation to create pollinator habitat on church grounds and member homes.

**The theme of the EcoFaith Summit 2023, *The Pollinator Plot: Cross + Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis***, at Gloria Dei, Duluth, on April 15, lifted up pollinators as examples of the Gospel paradox of power in weakness, and as a focus for care of creation among congregations.

The 2023 Synod Assembly adopted the **Pollinator Synod Resolution**, to “promote pollinator friendly habitats on their church grounds, at home, and in the neighborhood”... and to live into our call “as pollinators of the gospel in our witness to God’s love in Jesus Christ for all creation....”

The **Pollinator Project Steering Committee**, with the EcoFaith Leadership Team and support from synod staff, took active steps to invite and equip congregations into this new, synod wide pollinator plot.

- Offered a **Plotting for Pollinators** introductory session (via zoom) in May.
- Held zoom presentation-discussions for congregations who had signed up for the project. Tom Uecker sent periodic updates to these congregations with helpful resources.
- Developed **guidelines for becoming a Pollinator Sanctuary**.
- With the beautiful **pollinator mandala**, created in hand drawn form during the 2023 Summit by the Rev. Sarah S. T. Bishop, synod staff at Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, created **Pollinator Sanctuary yard signs and posters** for congregations to use.
- Held a workshop at the Synod Walking Together event at Zion, Grand Rapids in October, signed up 6 more congregations, and began distributing Pollinator Sanctuary yard signs and posters.
- Launched a **NE MN Synod Pollinator Project Facebook Group**.
- Featured stories from congregations in the **Green Blades Rising Newsletter**.

**This spring**, the Pollinator Project offered a display table and an arc building session (workshop) at the April 6 EcoFaith Summit. Thirty-nine congregations in our synod *and growing* have or are establishing pollinator sanctuaries, and are included on a **pollinator sanctuary map**, on [ecofaithnetwork.org](http://ecofaithnetwork.org). The first **Pollinator Sanctuary Sunday** will be celebrated on **June 2** across our synod, with resources to be provided by the pollinator project steering committee. ***Wherever you are, join the Plot!***

**Learn more at** [www.ecofaithnetwork.org/pollinator-project](http://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/pollinator-project)

**Email:** Tom Uecker, steering committee chair, [tomuecker1946@gmail.com](mailto:tomuecker1946@gmail.com) OR [ecofaith@nemnsynod.org](mailto:ecofaith@nemnsynod.org)

**Pollinator Sanctuary yard signs and posters** available at the synod office

**Join our Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/636061001764314/>