

GREEN ELCSA

2026 - 2028 Strategy

"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation."
Mark 16:15



Growing Together in Christ

Faith • Justice • Renewal

ABOUT GREEN ELCSA



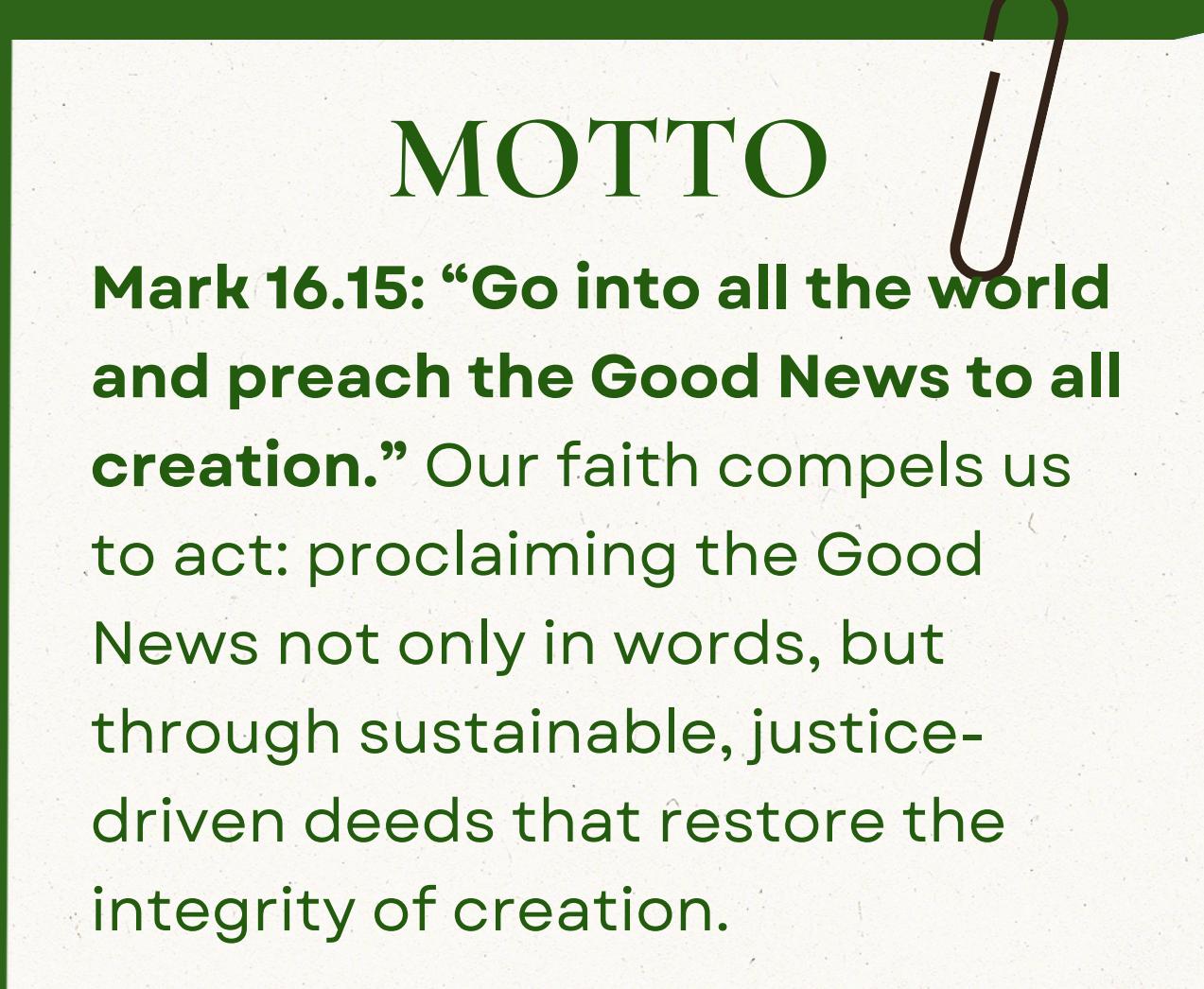
To believe is to act. To act is to restore. In faith, we find the courage to renew the Earth.

Green ELCSA is a project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA), implemented under the ELCSA Development Service. It is not a church formation, but rather a programmatic initiative that mobilises congregations, clergy, and communities around issues of environmental stewardship, climate and energy justice, and sustainable development.

Through education, advocacy, and practical action, Green ELCSA seeks to help the church live out its theological mandate of caring for creation, linking faith with tangible responses to environmental degradation, poverty, and inequality.

This initiative was founded in 2017 as a church-based ecological justice initiative within ELCSA. It emerged from growing concerns about environmental degradation, climate injustice, and the need to mobilise congregations, especially youth and women, toward creation care and resilient communities. And most importantly, Green ELCSA's foundation was inspired by the LWF 2017 Assembly's resolution on climate change.

“Where faith breathes, justice rises, and renewal begins.”





STRATEGIC PILLARS



Faith & Eco-Theology for Creation

This is to deepen theological understanding and pastoral engagement on creation care.

Climate Action & Advocacy

This is to promote renewable energy, adaptation, and just transition.

Communications and Learning

This is designed to amplify the voices of vulnerable people and youth, highlighting their resilience, stories, and shared learning.

Thematic Teams

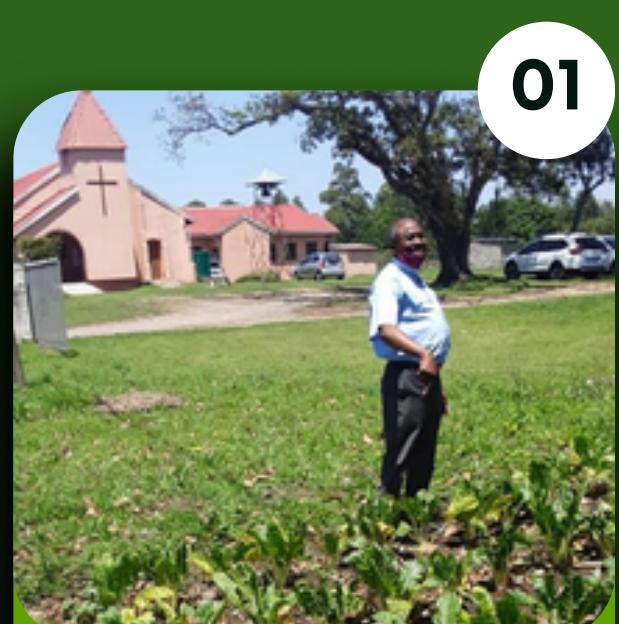


FOCUS AREAS & 2028 OUTCOMES

By 2028, Green ELCSA aims to be a leading faith movement for ecological and community transformation. Eco-theology will be fully integrated into theological education, and the Season of Creation will be celebrated across all dioceses. On the ground, parishes will host practical eco-projects, socially owned renewable energy systems, water conservation schemes, rainwater harvesting, gardens, recycling stations, composting units, and circular economy initiatives, making congregations centres of climate resilience.

Green ELCSA will publish a churchwide faith-based climate policy briefs and participate in national, regional, and international climate platforms to shape climate justice agendas. Our digital presence, website, blog, media channels, newsletters, and impact reports, will amplify local stories, uplift youth and women leaders, and connect communities through regular regional learning exchanges.

Altogether, Green ELCSA will deepen theological grounding, promote just energy transitions, protect water and land, uplift community stories, and embody a church committed to faith, justice, and renewal.



01

Eco-Theology and Pastoral Formation



02

Renewable Energy, Water Protection & Climate Resilience



03

Storytelling, Movement Building & Shared Learning



04

Community Empowerment & Practical Environmental Stewardship

01 ECO-THEOLOGY AND PASTORAL FORMATION

Focus: Deepen theological understanding and pastoral engagement on creation care as a core expression of faith.

2028 Outcomes:

- An Eco-Theology Programme/Curriculum integrated into ELCSA seminaries, and continuing clergy development.
- Annual Season of Creation observed across all dioceses with liturgies, Bible studies, and eco-justice sermons.
- Clergy and lay leaders trained to link theology with practical climate action: land care, water justice, renewable energy, and environmental dignity.

02 RENEWABLE ENERGY, WATER PROTECTION & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Focus: Promote socially owned renewable energy, community-centred adaptation, and sustainable resource use.

2028 Outcomes:

- Establishment of socially owned renewable energy projects such as:
 - Parish-based solar mini-grids.
 - Rooftop solar installations on churches and community buildings.
 - Energy cooperatives enabling youth and women to co-own clean energy assets.
- Water conservation interventions, including water storage for drought-prone areas.
- Waste and recycling programmes rolled out in congregations.

03 STORYTELLING, MOVEMENT BUILDING & SHARED LEARNING

Focus: Amplify voices, stories and shared learning from communities leading climate justice.

2028 Outcomes:

- Regular regional learning exchanges, enabling congregations to visit each other and share practical lessons.
- Representation in national, regional, and international climate platforms, bringing the voices of ELCSA communities into wider advocacy spaces.

04 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & PRACTICAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Focus: Grow community-driven environmental solutions rooted in faith, justice, and social ownership.

2028 Outcomes:

- Parishes become local centres of environmental stewardship.
- Empowered youth and women leading eco-projects, and adaptation work.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Every Green ELCSA project or programme must embody six cross-cutting values.

First, it must demonstrate **faith alignment**, grounding its purpose in Scripture and the Lutheran theology of creation and stewardship.

Second, it must ensure **community ownership**, meaning initiatives are designed with local parishes and communities, not imposed upon them.

Third, it must uphold **justice and inclusion**, advancing gender equity, youth leadership, disability inclusion, and intergenerational collaboration.

Fourth, it must deliver **transformative impact**, showing measurable environmental or social change rather than merely raising awareness.

Fifth, each initiative must embrace **sustainability**, building long-term systems such as training pathways, maintenance plans, income streams, and clear governance.

Finally, all projects should contribute to **learning and replication**, producing models, stories, and lessons that can be shared and scaled across dioceses and congregations.

Our mission is not merely to speak of creation, but to live the Gospel in ways that heal, renew, and reconcile it. Green ELCSA is our collective call to embody faith through action, ensuring that every parish becomes a beacon of hope for people and the planet.



FAITH INSPIRES, JUSTICE DEMANDS, RENEWAL RESTORES.



Growing Together in Christ

Authored by Khulekani Magwaza, with valuable contributions from members of the Green ELCSA community and partners who participated in consultations, workshop, and review processes.

www.green-elcsa.org