



Green Corner NWPAsynod Green Team

What is a Labyrinth?

A labyrinth is a walkway or path that always leads to the center. It is not a maze where you can make wrong turns or get blocked. It is a designed course that always moves you to the center. There are many places to find a labyrinth, but the one we want to talk and think about today is the **Labyrinth of the NWPAsynod** that sits on the grounds of the synod office located at 22598 Titusville Road (Rt 27), Pleasantville, PA 16341. While there are many reasons to use a labyrinth, we are focusing on contemplating creation and God's gifts to us in nature and our response to these gifts by Caring for Creation.

Labyrinths have a long history in the Christian tradition beginning as early as 350 AD. The meditative labyrinth moves the walker closer to the heart of God. Stopping at various spots, prayers and/or meditation guide the participant toward a deeper understanding – in this case nature and God's creation. You can walk the labyrinth alone or in a small group.

Ground was broken for the labyrinth on the synod property on September 22, 2015. After digging a full circle, gravel was poured, a sand layer was tamped and smoothed and pavers were put into place in a pattern. Three benches were installed and a walkway from the parking lot to the labyrinth was created. All of this was done in the beautiful, wooded setting behind the synod office. After the dedication, the labyrinth was ready to receive walkers. The Synod's Green Team is working with Synod staff to add native trees and shrubs to the Synod property this spring, including around the labyrinth. Watch for announcements of a workday or two if you'd like to be involved.

We encourage you to take a lovely ride to visit YOUR labyrinth on our NWPAsynod property. We encourage you to prepare to enjoy nature, pray with or without words and commune with God in thanks for the gift of creation that He has given us. We covet your prayers and thoughts concerning how to fulfill our mission as your Synod Green Team to "Raise an awareness of and advocate for the Care of Creation". May God bless you on this spiritual journey and bring you peace and solitude as you walk the labyrinth.

The Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress has written three books to help us understand and use a labyrinth. [The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform](#)(2006), [Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice](#)(2006), and [The Path of the Holy Fool: How the Labyrinth Ignites Our Visionary Powers](#)(2020).

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

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