

Why Water?

Safe and abundant water in a community means better health, better crops, better nutrition, and better quality of life. Water is Life
Water changes everything.

Water Facts

*Lots of water on Earth, right? Think again. 97% is salt water found in oceans. 2% is frozen in the polar ice and glaciers, and **only 1% is accessible for practical and safe usage.**

*Globally, 1.8 billion people – **one out of every four people** – drink from contaminated water sources.

***Unsafe water** claims the lives of 840,000 people each year, half are children under five.

*2.5 billion people live **without basic sanitation.**

*On average, women in Sub-Saharan Africa **walk 3.7 miles each day** to fetch water. The traditional five-gallon jug used weighs **40 pounds** when full!

***Average water consumption** in the U.S. is around 156 gallons per day per person. In France - 77 gallons per day, in India - 38 per day, in Mali – only 3 gallons per day.

Sources: World Health Organization and United Nations Development Report, 2020 and Center of Disease Control (CDC), January 2020

The La Crosse Area Synod Hunger Team

invites all congregations to support our upcoming water project “**Water is Life**”. This project will focus on water and how it impacts us both physically and spiritually.



Our goals for 2023 are to...

**Bring an awareness of the importance of water on the world's food supply and global efforts to end hunger.*

**Show how ELCA World Hunger is working to encourage, support, and sustain safe water supplies.*

**Raise money to support ELCA's water projects including simple wells, irrigation systems, latrines, and water filters.*

La Crosse Area Synod Hunger Team

Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen / Chair
Pastor John Ashland
Meg Finerty
Mary Nilsestuen
Bob & Kathy Weeks

Get involved....

The Synod Hunger Team will be distributing 2-gallon galvanized pails to each congregation at the Assembly Caucuses in April.

Each congregation should set a goal.
The 2020 Synod Hunger Resolution set a goal of \$10.00 per baptized member. Consider making this your goal!

Decorate or paint your pail.
Complete your project.
Bring the pail and your results to the 2024 Synod Assembly.



More information and resources will be available at Synod Caucus meetings, Conference Meetings, on the synod website, and at the 2023 Synod Assembly June 9th-11th.



But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

Ideas for congregations

To bring awareness:

- * **Put up a display that illustrates the importance of water.**

Draw attention to how water will play a major role in addressing hunger in the future. (There are many good sites online that delve into the role of water including this United Nations site:

<https://www.unwater.org/water-facts>)

- * **Connect water with your spiritual journey** by hosting a Sunday service, Lenten or Advent services that focus on water stories from the Bible.

- * **Sponsor a Water Weekend** with games and activities that focus on water. (ELCA World Hunger has a toolkit full of good and fun ideas you can use.

Go to

(https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Water_Toolkit.pdf)

To raise money:

- * **Set a goal** to fund a simple well, (\$2,500), a share of a well (\$250), water filters (\$30 each) a latrine (\$150) or a portion of an irrigation system (\$100) - through ELCA Good Gifts Catalog.

- * Use your synod **water bucket** for “noisy offerings” to support your water project

La Crosse Area Synod

2023 -2024



WATER IS LIFE
A Synod Project