

ECO CHALLENGE

1. In this 21st century with technological advances happening faster than we can comprehend, there is no longer a scarcity of clean drinking water anywhere in the world.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. In most villages, it is the women who fetch the water.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. The women go to the wells by way of:
 - a. Car
 - b. Local bus
 - c. Walk
 - d. All of the above
3. Identify areas where clean drinking water is a problem.
 - a. Morristown
 - b. Africa
 - c. Central America
 - d. Asia
 - e. Canada
 - f. Madison
 - g. South America
 - h. Palestine
 - i. Chatham
4. Problems that result in the lack of clean drinking water.
 - a. Disease
 - b. Exhaustion
 - c. Death
 - d. All of the above
5. One in four children dies before his or her fifth birthday.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Clean Water – Luxury or Necessity

There are many areas around the world that do not have clean drinking water. ELCA World Hunger supports water projects all over the world ranging from simple hand pumps to full-scale reservoirs and irrigation systems.

The benefits to a community of ready access to plentiful clean water include:

- Better health
- More energy for work and education
- Less money spent on medicine and clinic visits
- Less productive time lost to illness
- Less productive time lost to walking to find water
- Better crops and healthier livestock
- And much more

In Niger, West Africa women walk ten to fifteen miles to a well which has contaminated water. It is the only water available. They carry the water back in containers on their heads. The contaminated water causes many different illnesses and death. One in four children dies before his or her fifth birthday. Eighty-five percent of women cannot read or write because they must begin at an early age to fetch water.

However, if you drill 300 miles down, clean water is available.

Areas in the world where clean, consumable water is a problem include:

- Many countries in Africa
- Cambodia
- India
- Central America
- Haiti
- South America
- Palestine
- Asia

100 Wells Challenge

A major focus for the ELCA National Youth Gathering this July will be the **100 Wells Challenge**. It costs \$2,500 to dig one water well. The goal is to raise \$250,000. The youth attending the Gathering will bring money donated by their congregations for this effort.

Beginning on the first Sunday in Lent, there will be a 'well' available into which donations may be placed. The well is courtesy of Bob and Donna Mertz-Burkhardt. You can throw in cash or checks. If you write a check, please write 'wells' in the memo line.

Dana Klein and Julie Peterson will attend the Gathering with Charlene Peterson as chaperone. Dana and Julie will take what we collect to the Gathering.

Thank you for your help in this effort!