

## ***Let justice roll down like waters: WATER FACTS***

One out of every six of our neighbors world-wide lacks access to safe drinking water. Water-related illnesses are the leading cause of human sickness and death. In many countries, a water issue is the primary reason people are unable to rise out of poverty. Consider:

- In developing countries, 2.2 million people, most of them children, die every year from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.
- Each day, on average, a woman in Asia and Africa walks six kilometers (3.73 miles) and can spend six hours collecting water.
- By 2025, if present withdrawal and consumption rates for water

continue, two of every three people on Earth will live in water-stressed conditions.

- There are many countries where poor people can not afford clean water because the supply has been privatized. They must purchase water from vendors at significantly higher prices than piped water.

*Sources: ELCA Issue Brief on Water (July 2007); Blue Planet Run Foundation (<http://blueplanetrun.org/water/facts>); Lutheran World Information Waters of Life bulletin (2006).*

There is hope. Our gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal help fund comprehensive and sustainable development strategies that integrate solutions to water problems.

Learn more at [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger)



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