

WHAT
A
TREASURE
EARTH
REALLY
IS...



God's gift for all creation

Don't Bottle It Up!

JOIN YOUTH FROM ACROSS THE ELCA: TAKE THE CHALLENGE; TAKE THE PLEDGE!

Initiated by young people in the New Jersey Synod and endorsed by the youth voting delegates of the 2009 Lutheran Youth Organization, this Don't Bottle It Up Challenge is an education and advocacy effort aimed at helping reduce the use of bottled water and strengthening safe public water systems, both locally and globally. The Challenge is based on studying issues of water scarcity,

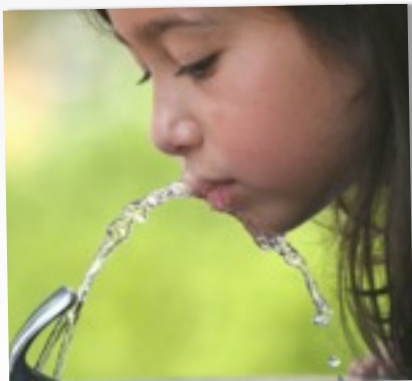
plastics, pollution, and water rights relating to bottled water.

You are invited to study, pray for, teach about, and advocate for God's precious gift of water for all creation! For *earth's* sake, Don't Bottle It Up!

www.water.njsynod.org

"...living creatures, and the air, soil and water that support them, face unprecedented threats. Many threats are global; most stem directly from human activity. Our current practices may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner we know."

"[A]s people of biblical faith, who live together in trust and hope, our primary motivation is the call to be God's caregivers and to do justice...As members of this church, we commit ourselves to personal lifestyles that contribute to the health of the environment." (*Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* ELCA Social Statement, adopted by 1993 Churchwide Assembly)



OUR HUMBLE LITTLE WEBSITE WITH A CASCADE OF USEFUL WEB LINKS & RESOURCES: WWW.WATER.NJSYNOD.ORG

THE ELCA'S EXCELLENT WATER RESOURCES WEBSITE: WWW.ELCA.ORG/HUNGER/WATER

Don't Bottle it Up! Pledge

I pledge to reduce my use of disposable bottled water, which means:

Opting for public tap water over bottled water;
and

Advocating for healthy, strong public water systems both locally and globally.

Signed by:

"WHEN THE POOR AND NEEDY SEEK WATER, I WILL OPEN RIVERS ON THE BARE HEIGHTS, AND FOUNTAINS IN THE MIDST OF THE VALLEYS; I WILL MAKE THE WILDERNESS A POOL OF WATER, AND THE DRY LAND SPRINGS OF WATER." --ISAIAH 41: 17-18

Because bottled water is expensive.

Because tap water in the U.S. is clean and safe.

Because bottled water creates trash and uses energy.

Because God's plan and our call is for all to have safe drinking water.

Because water is a gift from God, not a commodity to be bought and sold for profit.

Here are 10 interesting facts about bottled water



You may have heard the buzz surrounding the use of bottled water, and it seems like what was once quite an ordinary artifact at most barbecues, conventions, parties, and any other get-togethers (not to mention regular, everyday usage) has become a veritable symbol of wastefulness - and for good reason.

1. "An estimated **25 percent** or more of bottled water is really **just tap water in a bottle**—sometimes further treated, sometimes not treated at all." - *Allaboutwater.org*
2. Drinking bottled water is **1000 (one thousand!) times more expensive** than drinking tap water.
3. "In an interesting study conducted by Showtime television, the hosts found that **75%** of tested New York City residents actually **preferred tap water over bottled water** in a **blind taste test.**" - *Allaboutwater.org*
4. "Bottling and shipping water is the **least efficient** method of water delivery ever invented. The energy we waste using bottled water would be enough to power **190,000 homes**. But refilling your water bottle from the tap requires no expenditure of energy, and zero waste of resources." - *PBS.org*
5. "The Earth Policy Institute estimated that to make the plastic for the [water] bottles [consumed annually] burns up something like 1.5 million barrels of oil, **enough to power 100,000 cars for a year.**" - *SeattlePI.com*
6. "Nearly **90 percent** of [water] bottles are **not recycled.**" *SeattlePI.com*
7. "Bottled water is actually **much less regulated** than tap water. There are a number of studies in which we find **arsenic, disinfection byproducts and bacteria** in bottled water." - *SeattlePI.com, quoting Gina Solomon*
8. **30 million** water bottles are thrown away **every day**, and each one of them takes **1000 years** to biodegrade. - *emagazine.com*.
9. "In one case, bottled water labeled as "Alaska Premium Glacier Drinking Water: Pure Glacier Water from the Last Unpolluted Frontier" was actually drawn from Public Water System #111241 in Juneau." - *emagazine.com*.
10. Buying one gallon's worth of bottled water is **three times more expensive** than buying one gallon of **gasoline.** - *emagazine.com*