

Date

Dear Parents,

We're excited about introducing you to THE H2O PROJECT, through a joint venture between the Minneapolis/ St. Paul Area Synods and the Student Ministries of *(Church Name Here)*. Through this project, our students will be encouraging our church to help drill and maintain wells in our partner synods in Nigeria and Tanzania, so that these needy communities will be provided with safe drinking water – all in the name of Jesus Christ, who said, *"I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink.."*

THE FACTS:

- Drinking bottled water is 1000 times more expensive than drinking tap water. "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.
- 30 million water bottles are thrown away every day, each taking 1000 years to biodegrade. – *emagazine.com*.
- Every 15 seconds, a child dies because of a lack of clean drinking water. That is 10,000 children per day, or 4million per year. In most cases, clean water is right beneath their feet, but there is no well, only disease-infested pools of stagnant surface water.

CHALLENGE #1: Students commit to eliminate or significantly reduce their use of bottled water.

CHALLENGE #2: For two weeks – beginning *(Date Here)* – our students and congregation will be hearing about the impact that a simple water well can have on a community where water shortages have brought poverty, disease, and death. Our students will be presented with this challenge:

- Make tap water your only *beverage* for 2 weeks.
- Set aside money which would have gone toward bottled water or other beverages.
- Return the money in an envelope on Collection Day, *(Collection date here)*

100% of money collected will go to drill or maintain wells in our partner synods in Africa. Students are not being asked to contribute funds which come from personal savings or funds which you would have given to other causes. All project money should come from the small sacrifice of giving up other beverages. In essence, it is a challenge to DIVERT funds that were headed toward the soda machine or coffee shop. Money that would have gone to CONSUMPTION will go to a CONTRIBUTION. As we sacrifice the pleasure of other beverages—for just two weeks—we will be making a choice that **saves a life**. Our students' efforts will be celebrated at the annual Celebration of Confirmation on November 4th from 6 to 8 pm. at Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul!

As parents, you can be of tremendous help if you will:

- Encourage your sons and daughters as they deny themselves for the sake of others.
- Add any savings you see in your grocery bill to their donation before Collection Day. Better still, why not join them in this time of sacrifice and add your own savings to theirs? Check should be made out to *(Choose: Mpls Area ELCA Synod or St Paul Area ELCA Synod)*
- Pray for THE H2O PROJECT, for the people of Tanzania and Nigeria, and for the many communities waiting for clean water.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to be faithful stewards of God's precious gift of water!

(Your name)