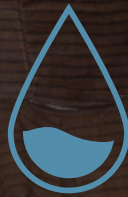


WORLD
water day



MARCH 22

water to thrive
BUILD WELLS CHANGE LIVES

Water to Thrive Resources for World Water Day – March 22

World Water Day is an international observance day occurring annually, since 1993, on March 22. Sponsored by the United Nations, the intention is to inspire people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference. Each year, the United Nations selects a theme for emphasis.

Water is a precious resource, but access to safe, clean water is not equally shared throughout the world, and that is what the world water crisis is about. While the average American turns on the water tap in their home between 70 and 100 times a day, 1 in 4 people in our world – 2 billion people worldwide – lack safe drinking water.

Water to Thrive, a faith-based US nonprofit founded in 2008, urges your congregation to celebrate World Water Day on the Sunday closest to March 22, annually. Water to Thrive transforms lives in rural Africa by working with partners and beneficiaries to bring the blessing of clean, safe water by connecting communities in need with supporters who have the heart and spirit to make a difference. As of this writing in 2023, in the 15 years since our founding in 2008, we've facilitated the development of 1,687 wells in east Africa, changing 810,000 lives forever.

We have assembled these materials to give you ideas of ways to celebrate World Water Day and urge your members to take positive actions to be aware of the preciousness of water, to conserve water, and to be a part of the solution to our world water crisis.

- Fact sheet about World Water Day and the worldwide water crisis
- Ideas for including the celebration of World Water Day in your congregation's liturgy
- Suggestions for children's ministry activities
- Information about funding wells in east Africa through Water to Thrive

And of course, you could use this occasion to declare or conclude a campaign for a well in east Africa, through Water to Thrive. A well through Water to Thrive in Ethiopia, Uganda, or Tanzania costs \$5,000. It provides access to clean water for about 350 people for 20 years. *Build wells. Change lives.*

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Fact Sheet for World Water Day – March 22.....	4
Water to Thrive Fact Sheet.....	5
Water-themed Resources for Worship Service.....	7
Children’s Message Story for Children.....	10
Activities and Resources.....	11

A Fact Sheet for World Water Day – March 22

What is World Water Day?

World Water Day is an international observance day occurring annually, since 1993, on March 22. Sponsored by the United Nations, the intention is to inspire people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference. Each year, the United Nations selects a theme for emphasis.

What is the Worldwide Water Crisis?

Water is a precious resource, but access to safe, clean water is not equally shared throughout the world, and that is what the world water crisis is about. While the average American turns on the water tap in their home between 70 and 100 times a day, 1 in 4 people worldwide – 2 billion people – lack safely managed drinking water in their homes.

Here are some eye-opening worldwide statistics:

- Today, 1 in 4 people – 2 billion people worldwide – lack safely managed drinking water, defined as drinking water that is on the premises, available when needed, and free from dangerous contamination (WHO/UNICEF 2021)
- 1 in 9 people worldwide lack access to clean water (within 1 kilometer)
- 1.4 million people die annually and 74 million will have their lives shortened by diseases related to poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WHO 2022)

The need in sub-Saharan Africa is even more critical. There, ...

- 48 percent of the people lack access to clean water.
- Every 90 seconds a child dies of waterborne disease.
- 100,000 deaths annually are caused by waterborne diseases.
- Women and children walk up to 6 hours each day to fetch dirty water for their family.
- The economic loss related to lack of clean water has been estimated at \$260 billion.

What Can YOU Do?

1. Practice responsible use of water in your homes, remembering that it is a precious gift from God.
2. Educate yourself on the world water crisis by watching documentaries and visiting water-related sites such as the one for World Water Day.
3. Raise awareness of water issues for others on social media.
4. Donate to help people without access to clean water through organizations such as Water to Thrive.

WATER TO THRIVE FACT SHEET

OUR VISION

A WORLD WHERE WE
SHARE GENEROUSLY
TO PROVIDE HEALTH,
HOPE, AND WATER TO
THOSE WE SERVE.

OUR MISSION

WATER TO THRIVE
TRANSFORMS LIVES IN
EAST AFRICA BY
WORKING WITH
PARTNERS AND
BENEFICIARIES TO
BRING THE BLESSING
OF CLEAN, SAFE
WATER, CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES IN
NEED WITH THOSE
WHO HAVE THE
HEART AND SPIRIT TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

OUR VALUES

STEWARDSHIP
TRANSPARENCY
IMPACT
ACCOUNTABILITY
INTEGRITY
EMPOWERMENT



OUR HISTORY

Water to Thrive's first water project was funded in 2008, after a Bible study group at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, learned about the staggering cost of the global water crisis and decided it was necessary to act. The group decided to see if they could raise enough money to fund a couple of wells. After just 90 days, they had ultimately collected enough money to build 12 wells. Dick Moeller, a member of the group, was inspired by the success of that first campaign. He realized that if one church group could raise enough money for 12 wells, others could do even more. Motivated by the desire to bring clean water to those who so desperately need it, Dick founded Water to Thrive.

Since our founding in 2008, we have honored our 100 Percent Promise, guaranteeing that every dollar donated for water projects will go entirely to water projects and not for operational overhead. We try to have as little overhead expenses as possible, as funding water projects is our primary focus.



Water to Thrive works to bring clean, safe water to those who need it in rural Africa.

Fifteen years. 1,687 wells. 810,000 lives changed forever.

OUR WORK

BRINGING WATER TO RURAL AFRICANS IN NEED

We began our service in 2008 by funding 12 wells in Ethiopia. After a number of projects in Sierra Leone, we expanded our work to Uganda and Tanzania. Our water projects are located largely in rural, agrarian communities, located centrally to area farms, providing clean, safe water to hundreds of people in a region.

In our 15th year of service, we have funded over 1,687 wells, bringing clean water to over 810,000 people.

In 2023, our goal is to fund 115 wells which equates to 29 wells per quarter or 9.6 wells per month.

SUSTAINING OUR MISSION

We continue to be able to make our 100 Percent Promise because of supporters who also recognize the need for a strong operational foundation. Gifts to our Drop by Drop fund sustain our mission and support all the work that goes along with building wells.



THE GIFT OF A BETTER LIFE

Water to Thrive could not build wells and change lives without the support we receive from families, congregations, groups, schools, and businesses. Whether you create or donate to a campaign to fund a water project or earmark your financial gift to support the operations that sustain our mission, you are making a new life possible for thousands of people in need.

Water-themed Resources for Worship Service

These resources for worship are suggestions, only. Feel free to select and tweak resources that would work effectively for your own congregation.

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Acclamation

In the name of the Father...

Confession and Absolution

Gathering Hymn

Possible Hymns for World Water Day Service (all from Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

- 459 Wade in the Water
- 717 Let Justice Flow like Streams
- 782 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need
- 331 As the Deer Runs to the River
- 508 As Rain from the Clouds
- 455 Crashing Waters at Creation
- 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- 739 Touch the Earth Lightly
- 457 Waterlife

Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, pour out on us the water of life that we may quench our thirst and draw strength from you. Help us to stand alongside those who struggle daily for clean water so that all may be refreshed and renewed by your love.

C: Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Psalm: 107:1-6, 31-45

Second Reading: Revelation 22:1-7

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-45

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Creed

Prayers of Intercession

P: We pray with Mana, a 58-year-old Ethiopian with Leprosy: she prays for the ones who help her. She prays that the word of God will spread and live long. She prays for rain and food because there are so many people who have neither. She prays for more justice and peace in this world. (Pause) We join our prayer with hers.

C: **Lord, receive our prayer.**

P: We pray with the people of Papua New Guinea: God of life, God of all those who walk miles for water, God of those whose only supply is contaminated, bringing death, not life. May water, clean and life-giving, be available to every living creature. May that vision move forward. May your will be done. (Pause) We join our prayer with theirs.

C: **Lord, receive our prayer.**

P: We pray with Tigist Girma who walks more than three hours for her daily water. Walk with her, so that she might feel your presence when she is afraid of predators, both human and animal. Promise her that day when she will no longer make her dangerous trek for the basic necessity of living. (Pause) We join our prayer with hers.

C: **Lord, receive our prayer.**

P: We pray with the people of Birkute and so many other villages in Ethiopia who received the resources to dig a new well in their village; for the clean water that comes from it; and, the joy you give us to be able to partner with these villages through W2T. (Pause) We join our prayer with theirs.

C: **Lord, receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for all our sisters and brothers who suffer from want of fresh water, adequate medical care, failing crops, as well as loneliness, failing health, and anxiety. You, Father, know all their names and needs, and ours as well. Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy revealed in Christ crucified.

C: **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Hymn

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: **God of living water,**

You call all of your children beloved and you welcome all to your table.
Receive our lives with all of our intentions, and the gifts we offer, for the
blessing of your world.

Abide with us and send us in service to a thirsty world; for the sake of
your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Preface

Sanctus

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

P: With all the thirsty people of God, come and taste the joy of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

Distribution of Communion

Distribution Hymn

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.

C: Wellspring of you,

Through this food and drink you have filled our hearts with gladness.
So, inspire us now to the work of satisfying the hunger and thirst still
around us, and send us as joyful witnesses to your abundant blessings,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all your children.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The God who faithfully brings forth the living water of justice and breaks the
oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Take a cup of cold water to the thirsty. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Children's Story | Children's Message

This story is Quechua story is taken from <https://www.unwater.org/bethechange/>, accessed January 29, 2023.

Today I want to share an ancient story told by the Quechua people of South America about a hummingbird. It's about how we react to a crisis.

Right now, we face a water and sanitation crisis.

What do we do? Do we just stand and stare? Or do we act?

Here's the story:

'One day in the forest, a fire broke out.

All the animals ran for their lives.

They stood at the edge of the blaze, looking at the flames in terror and sadness.

Up above their heads, a hummingbird was flying back and forth to the fire, over and over again.

The bigger animals asked the hummingbird what she was doing.

"I am flying to the lake to get water to help put out the fire."

The animals laughed at her and said, "You're crazy, you can't put out this fire!"

The hummingbird replied, "I'm doing what I can."

The hummingbird is helping to solve the problem, one drop at a time. She is being the change she wants to see in the world.

You can be like the hummingbird, too. The actions you take, no matter how small will help solve the water crisis.

What are some ways YOU can take action? [Accept all suggestions offered.]

Closing prayer:

Dear God, thank you for the precious gift of water. Help us to use it wisely and to find ways to help people who don't have access to clean water. Thank you that each of us can make a difference in a crisis – just like the hummingbird. Thank you for loving us. Amen.

Activities and Resources

Make a Commitment:

On the website established for World Water Day 2023, <https://www.unwater.org/bethechange>, you'll find a resource for developing a personal Action Plan for your commitments to improving the water and sanitation crisis.

Watch a documentary:

Some documentaries include: 'The World's Water Crisis' and 'A World Without Water.' There are also number of short films from ChildFund Australia's Water World International Children's Film Festival.

Read / Study a Book:

For Youth and Adults: A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story, by Linda Sue Parks

For Younger Children: Clean Water for Elirose, by Ariah Fine

Water Walk:

Women and children in sub-Saharan Africa are responsible for fetching water for their family's use daily. Sometimes these walks take up to 6 hours daily, making it impossible for children (especially girls) to attend school. In Ethiopia, they use 5-gallon jerry cans to collect and carry water. When full, these plastic containers weigh about 40 pounds. Set up a course outdoors and have participants heft and carry a full 5-gallon jerry can for some distance. You could set this up as a relay race or just an individual experience. For young children, fill 1-gallon milk jugs. (Why is it important to do this outside? When a small child falls on a full milk jug, it will explode.)

Hold a Fund-raiser:

Any activity can be used as a fundraiser for funding a well: a potluck, water walk, watching a water documentary together, an opportunity to play games together.

Some Internet Resources:

World Water Day

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/resources/awareness/world-water-day.html>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/days/world-water>

Water Scarcity

<https://www.unicef.org/wash/water-scarcity>

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/water>

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

WORLD
water day



MARCH 22


water to thrive
BUILD WELLS CHANGE LIVES

Water to Thrive
P.O. Box 26747
Austin, Texas 78755
512.206.4495
watertothrive.org
team@watertothrive.org
Copyright © 2023