



**Washington Office**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



# Water: The Source of Life

Your urgent help is  
needed!



***Could you live without clean drinking water? What if you didn't have access to a basic toilet? What would you do? That is the reality of life for many of God's people living in the 21st century.***

- ◆ *1.1 billion people* around the world do not have access to clean drinking water. ([http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/waterforlife.pdf](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/waterforlife.pdf)).
- ◆ Dirty drinking water kills approximately 5,000 children per day. ([http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/the\\_issue/](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/the_issue/)).
- ◆ In parts of Africa, women and children walk about 4 miles per day for water. (<http://www.waterinfo.org/resources/water-facts>).
- ◆ About 5% of Africa's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is used to combat water borne and poor sanitation illnesses and deaths. ([http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/the\\_issue/](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/the_issue/)).
- ◆ *2.6 billion people* around the world lack access to a purpose-built toilet. ([http://www.wateraid.org/splash\\_out/facts/4872.asp](http://www.wateraid.org/splash_out/facts/4872.asp)).
- ◆ Approximately 90% of sewage in developing countries is released into water ways without treatment, polluting the water supply. (<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/factsheet.html>).

## **How You Can Help**

Go to the ELCA Advocacy website and learn how you can support the **Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2009:**

**<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Advocacy/Congregational-Resources/Act-Now.aspx>**

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