

WALKING FOR WATER

Navajo families who rely on hauled water ration an average of **7gallons per day** compared to the average American's consumption of **100 gallons per day**.

More than **half** the households at Rock Point, home to the Navajo Evangelical Mission, do not have safe drinking water.

Globally water is a women's crisis. Women and girls around the world spend collective **200 million hours collecting water each day**. In addition to time spent collecting, millions may also spend significant amounts of time finding a place to go for water. Water responsibilities force an inability for women to live up to their full potential.

WATER SCARCITY: 8 FACTS FROM THE WORLD WILDLIFE FEDERATION, JANUARY 2025

More and more people experience climate crises through water; rainfall or snowmelt arriving too early or too late, too little or too much causing drought or flooding.

- 1) Fresh water is limited and essential to life. Water covers 70% of earth but only 3% is fresh and of that, <1% accessible for human life.
- 2) Globally >2 billion people face water stress daily. This disproportionately affects women and children who have the primary burden of finding it and collecting it.
- 3) Rivers are drying up.
- 4) Climate change intensifies scarcity. As temperature rises drought becomes more severe with unpredictable rainfall making water management more challenging.
- 5) Wetlands are vanishing. Wetlands are nature's water filters and flood buffers. They are vanishing 3 times faster than forests.
- 6) Agriculture drives water use. Crop irrigation uses 70% of the world's available fresh water.
- 7) Big Cities big impact. Urban centers and manufacturing hubs require immense amounts of water and often strain resources and groundwater.
- 8) There is Hope through collective action.

By optimizing available water, supporting water resilient farming, restoring degraded ecosystems, and advocating for policies that prioritize sustainable water use, we can ensure this precious resource remains available for all life on Earth.



WATER

Water is life. It is a resource vital to sustaining life on this planet--from filling up a water glass at the dinner table, to washing clothes, to growing food across millions of acres, water is life. While the Earth may seem like it has abundant water, less than 1 percent is available for human use. The rest is either salt water found in oceans, fresh water frozen in the polar ice caps, or too inaccessible for practical usage. As population and demand on freshwater resources increase, especially here in the Southwestern region of the US, concerns over the supply and shortages loom.

Solving the water crisis in the Southwest is complicated and involves a lot varying and sometimes competing interests—farmers, city dwellers, conservationists, Indigenous tribes, recreationists, etc. What we hope to accomplish in this pub theology is explore our response as Christian people to the water crisis through a Scriptural and theological lens while learning more about the perspectives of Colorado River stakeholders.

RESOURCES TO REVIEW

- Listen to all or a few of the six-part podcast series: [Thirst Gap: Learning to Live Less on the Colorado River](#)
- 1922 Water Compact: The [1922 Colorado River Compact](#) is just four pages, but this critical document sets the river's total supply at 15 million acre feet per year, defines the states that make up the upper and lower basins, allocates 7.5 million acre feet per basin annually, and introduces the legal framework for Mexico's future allotment. Read the [1922 Colorado Water Compact](#)
- Review the ["Arizona Water Fact Sheet"](#) produced by the Water Resources Research Center from the University of Arizona
- Read ["Arizona's Next Water Crisis"](#) from the Arizona Republic; 2019
- Read ["Climate Change is hitting the Colorado River 'incredibly fast and incredibly hard'"](#) from the Arizona Republic; 2021
- Read John 4:1-15
- Jesus claims to be "living water." What is living water?
- Read ["Holy Baptism"](#) liturgy from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal
- How is baptism connected to a life of following Jesus?
- Read Martin Luther's [Introduction to Baptism from the Small Catechism](#)
- What does baptism mean to you?