



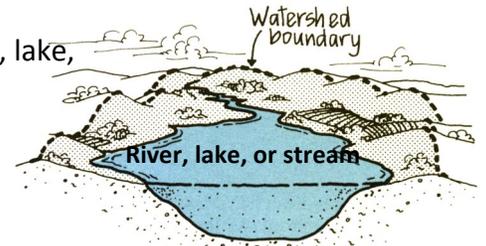
We All Live in a Watershed



We're all connected to water and called to water discipleship as stewards of God's creation

“ The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it”
Psalm 24:1

What Is a Watershed? It is a hydrologic term for a boundary— or turning point—that causes waters to flow in different directions; a crucial divide. It is an area of land that drains off to a central waterbody—a river, lake, or stream. Each watershed is made up of a unique mix of habitats that influence each other including forests and wetlands, fields and meadows, rivers and lakes, farms and cities. Every living thing within a watershed is interconnected and dependent on the health of others.



What we do on the land determines the quality of the waters within the watershed.



Minnesota lies within nine water drainage basins that drain Minnesota's waters to Hudson Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, or the Gulf of Mexico. Within those basins, are major watersheds—there are 80 major watersheds in Minnesota. **The NE MN Synod/ELCA falls within all or part of 25 major watersheds—30% of Minnesota's major watersheds.** Find out more about your watershed, search by city or zipcode at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watersheds

We're At a Watershed Moment!

As a society we are at a critical turning point—a watershed moment—to protect the water on which all aspects of our lives depend. As Christians, we have a stewardship responsibility to protect and improve our waters and insure their use for future generations. **The waters within the Northeast Synod/ELCA are generally of high quality? How can we as Christian stewards protect the future quality of our waters?** As Christians we can learn from our watershed—the water, the ground, the wildlife, the people—that which is in need of restoration and how our story is interwoven with God's to work toward a right relationship between all living things.

Our waters are being threatened by overdevelopment on the land; conversion of forests to agriculture land; potential impacts of mining; pharmaceuticals in the water; aquatic invasive species; groundwater contamination; global warming and more. **Do what you can to protect our waters.**

- Learn more about watershed discipleship
- Curb pollutants from running off the land into our waters
- Capture and cleanse rainwater with rain barrels and raingardens
- Know the local rules for development and follow them
- Show up and speak up about activities that may be threatening the quality of our waters.

Become involved with the EcoFaith Network of the NE MN Synod/ELCA