

# Region 2

# Synod 2025

## 40-40-40 LENTEN CHALLENGE

### 2025 Lenten Challenge: *A Watered Garden*

Isaiah 58:11 grounds this year's Lenten journey, in which the five Region 2 synods are challenging one another to explore the intersection of hunger and water while learning about one of our Region 2 Indigenous Ministries, the 70-year-old Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) in Rock Point, AZ.





**The challenge** is to participate in some personal and community spiritual practices during Lent while learning about Lutheran Disaster Response's projects, the ELCA's work in the Truth and Healing Movement, and the work and ministry of NELM. The "winning synod" will be the one with the most individual participants.

**Why Lent?** Lent is 40 days to reflect, remember our dependence on God and one another, and look forward to the ways God calls us to be. Adding one or more of these practices to your observation of Lent might help you feel more connected. A light-hearted challenge like this could help our synods be the Church together, and to see God's vision and invitation for us to be a church for the world and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**How is this a challenge?** This a friendly competition for a good cause. Our goal is for individuals representing 50 congregations per synod to participate.

### What are the 40-40-40 Lenten practices?

To participate you'll commit to 3 of the 4 (or all 4) practices during the 40 days of Lent, 2025.

-  **Daily Devotion.** Subscribe to receive daily email devotions by Pastor Bill Dohle for Lent. These short reflections will be delivered to your inbox every morning during Lent.
-  **Daily Diligence.** Drink water; play in water; give up single-use water bottles; learn about water resources in your community and historical ELCA water projects; find ways each day to save water.
-  **Daily Dedication.** Engage with your community in this exploration. Participate in worship or Bible study; learn together, join a reading circle; encourage children's activities around conservation; celebrate World Water Day; organize a water walk; advocate for or clean up your local watershed.
-  **Daily Donation.** Pledge to give \$1 a day (or more) to Lutheran Disaster Response during Lent, designated for water distribution projects at NELM.

**What does our synod win?** The 'winning' bishop will play a short video with congratulatory clips recorded by the other participating bishops. All in fun.

**Participating Synods:** Sierra Pacific (2A), Southwest California (2B), Pacifica (2C), Grand Canyon (2D) and Rocky Mountain (2E)



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