

Why should we be worried about plastic?

- More than an environmental issue- also a human health issue
 - Plastics contain toxic additives (BPAs, PFSA, phthalates) linked to endocrine disorders, cancer, ADHD, and ADRD
- 400 million metric tons virgin plastic produced annually worldwide
- Only 9% plastic recycled globally (Earth Day 2024 Report, earthday.org)
- 2017 report: If current production/waste management trends continue, approximately 12,000 million tons of plastic waste will be in landfills or in the natural environment by 2050 (Geyer et al., 2017, SciAdvances)

What can Bethany do?

- Use reusable glasses/mugs, cutlery, and plates
 - Americans throw away 25 billion Styrofoam coffee cups annually (2015 BBC news)
 - Americans purchase 50 billion single use water bottles a year (<https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/reusable-water-bottle-market>).
- Package in reusable or recyclable containers instead of using plastic wrap or Ziploc bags
- Avoid buying items packaged individually in plastic wrap
- Buy in bulk
- Reuse what we have
- Recycle when possible

Many congregations try giving up plastic for lent:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/03/these-elca-congregations-gave-up-plastic-for-lent/>

<https://firstlutherandecorah.org/creation-care-team-green-tip-for-lent-break-free-from-single-use-plastics/>