ELCA World Hunger's
1213
ACTION GUIDE
for CONGREGATIONS

2018 Advent calendar
2018 Advent Study

ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
HOW TO
USE THIS GUIDE

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are called to share in God’s work in the world. Through ELCA World Hunger, our church creatively and courageously works toward a just world where all are fed. Together, we act, pray and hope that through economic life and justice there will be truly sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all.

Chances are your congregation is already making a difference in the fight against hunger and poverty by serving your neighbors, raising funds and collecting in-kind donations. This guide is designed to equip you with some of the newest and most popular resources to activate your congregation as you continue in that fight. Through this work and together as a church, we are achieving things on a scale and scope we could never do otherwise.

FIND
Find nearly all resources featured in this guide (and more):
ELCA.org/hunger/resources.

CONNECT
Engage with the latest news and stories from ELCA World Hunger:
Facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger
Twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger
Instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger

TELL US
Was your activity a success?
Send photos and stories to Hunger@ELCA.org.

LEAD
Do you want to become a hunger leader within your congregation? Join a network of passionate leaders and receive a monthly newsletter, exclusive webinar invitations, direct access to our newest resources and more. Email Hunger@ELCA.org to sign up today.

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Ideas for worship

End Hunger Sundays

Show your congregation’s commitment to ending hunger and poverty by dedicating an End Hunger Sunday once a month or once a quarter to help end hunger for good. During worship on these Sundays, offer prayers for those in need, collect a special offering, and share stories of our gifts at work by using reproducible stories in your bulletins or showing videos.

Special dates to consider include:

**OCT 16**

**WORLD FOOD DAY**

Join ELCA World Hunger and people around the world to commemorate World Food Day, a day for raising awareness and taking action as we work toward ensuring food security for all. With hunger around the world on the rise after a decade of steady decline, these efforts are more important than ever.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Take a special offering for ELCA World Hunger and help fight hunger in more than 60 countries, including the U.S.
- Find ELCA World Hunger resources at ELCA.org/hunger/resources and help educate or activate your congregation.
- Learn about important ways your congregation can be involved in ELCA Advocacy initiatives at ELCA.org/advocacy.
- Plan an intergenerational activity using the toolkits available at ELCA.org/hunger/resources.

**DEC 1**

**WORLD AIDS DAY**

Donate, advocate, learn and pray on World AIDS Day, an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in fighting HIV and AIDS, supporting those who live with HIV and mourning those who have died. Learn more at ELCA.org/HIV, where you will find resources for worship and can read “AIDS and the Church’s Ministry of Caring,” the first social message of the newly formed ELCA from 1988.

Support for HIV and AIDS is part of ELCA World Hunger’s health work – an integral component of our comprehensive approach to ending hunger. From education and support to hospitals and clinics, medication, testing and counseling, your gifts help in all of these ways and more.
Share stories

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger impact millions of lives around the world – but don’t take our word for it. Share video stories with members of your congregation during a temple talk, offering or adult forum. Learn more and dig deeper with discussion guides and handouts that accompany the videos.

Watch or download all of these videos and more than 25 others at Vimeo.com/Channels/ELCAWorldHunger.

Saroj’s Story

Saroj was one of the first women in her village in India to learn about the smokeless cookstove. The stove saves women 12 to 16 hours each week, time that is traditionally spent gathering wood. Through the Tripti Project, a program supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Saroj is receiving education and training on nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, and safe cooking practices. Meet Saroj and hear more about how the project is using education to meet the unique needs of this village and helping make in-home smokeless stoves a reality.

Robyn’s Story

Robyn is a U.S. Army veteran and a leader of Cathedral in the Night, an outdoor Christian ministry in Northampton, Mass. The ministry provides a meal every Sunday to its community, which includes people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

The Seeds of Change in Malawi

Christopher is a young adult living in Malawi with his family, who are subsistence farmers. Spend a day with Christopher and his family as they farm, go to school, share a meal and explain how gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped them become food secure. This 360-degree virtual reality video is best viewed on a headset or the YouTube app, but it can be viewed on a desktop computer.
Reproducible stories

Your congregation’s gifts to ELCA World Hunger are changing lives in the United States and around the world. Photocopy or print out these inserts for your Sunday bulletin to share real-life stories of the impact those gifts are making every day, or use a story as a centerpiece for a sermon, adult study or confirmation class.

Find these stories and more at ELCA.org/hunger/resources and click on the “Stories & Videos” tab.

Print these stories in black and white or color

ELCA World Hunger bulletin insert

Include this new, expanded ELCA World Hunger insert in your Sunday worship bulletin or use as a brochure on a resource table. Learn more about how your gifts are making an impact and get an overview of our church’s response to hunger and poverty.
Advent Litany

Use this litany in your worship service or include it in newsletters as you celebrate the season.

In this deep-blue season of waiting and watching, turn our thoughts and our prayers to you, God of hope. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

In the wilderness of sin and fear, show us the tree of life for the healing of the nations. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

Accompany us on the hectic highways of our lives. Draw us to your manger to kneel in peace before you. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

Lead us to your justice, O God. Show us your love, wrap us in your holiness. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

We long for your glorious light. Shine your face upon us and we shall be saved. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

Advent Study

Rejoice and reflect this Advent season through study, prayer and worship. ELCA World Hunger’s 2018 Advent Study is full of new weekly devotions, prayers, blessings and hymn suggestions. Use this resource during weekly worship or adult study, or encourage members to take it home and read it each week during Advent.

Download and print for free at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the “Seasonal” tab.

Receive Advent e-devotions by subscribing to ELCA World Hunger’s blog at blogs.ELCA.org/worldhunger.
IDEAS FOR ADVENT

Advent calendar

Celebrate the excitement, anticipation and wonder of Christ’s birth with the 2018 ELCA Good Gifts Advent calendar. Each day is a reminder of the reason for the season with hymns, prayers, Bible verses and information about how ELCA Good Gifts make a difference in the world.

Visit Resources.ELCA.org to order free calendars to distribute to families in your congregation. Each pack contains 25 calendars, and we recommend one calendar per household.

Advent tree

Decorate a tree with ornaments that represent ELCA Good Gifts – honeybees, farming tools, irrigation canals or microloans, for example – as well as your congregation’s fundraising goal. Invite families to select ornaments representing the gifts they’d like to give and take them home as a reminder of their giving. If you have multiple entrances or gathering spaces, consider using several trees. When the trees are empty, you’ll know you’ve met your goal!

Visit Resources.ELCA.org to order a free pack of 34 assorted ornaments, or opt for a free pack of 10 matching ornaments, and decorate a whole tree with bees, pigs or goats!

“We have an ADVENTure of Christmas All Ages Celebration on the first Sunday of Advent. We handed out the calendars there and then had them available in our narthex throughout the Advent season with other Advent devotional materials.”

– Carrie Ryan, coordinator of spiritual development at Advent Lutheran Church in Harleysville, Pa.
IDEAS FOR CONGREGATIONS

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The average American spends more than $700 on Christmas gifts each year. When we think about the best gifts we have given or received, it is often not the gift itself but the meaning behind it that makes it significant. Rethink traditional gift-giving this Christmas with ELCA Good Gifts. Give a gift to a loved one that also touches someone who is supported by ELCA ministries. ELCA Good Gifts go beyond your regular congregational offering to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones.

Check out some fun and educational ways to get your congregation involved with ELCA Good Gifts, especially during Advent.

ELCA Good Gifts catalog

Spread the word! ELCA Good Gifts is a fun, interactive way to support ELCA World Hunger. Leave multiple copies of the catalog out in a prominent place and encourage people to take one home. Make an announcement to your congregation and encourage a different way of giving gifts this year. With more than 50 giving options, your members are sure to find gifts that inspire them to help people in need.

Popular Good Gifts!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$200</th>
<th>Community vegetable garden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Pair of goats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75</td>
<td>Farming Field School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30</td>
<td>Piglet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Chicks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Send a card

If you give an ELCA Good Gift in honor of a friend or loved one, our cards make it easy to tell them about it! Visit ELCA.org/GoodGifts to give online and personalize free, printed cards to be sent directly to your loved ones. You may also select to send the cards to yourself, print them at home or have them delivered via email.
Mark your calendars – plan for Lent 2019!

ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving will continue next year. Join thousands of ELCA members and congregations during Lent who are supporting the life-changing work of ELCA World Hunger through worship, gift and prayer. Look for more information and new resources coming soon!

Questions? Email us at Hunger@ELCA.org.
Start a backpack buddies program

Help children receive the nutrition they need to learn, grow and engage! Approximately 16 million kids in America live in households without consistent access to adequate food. Your congregation can help provide elementary school children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals with backpacks full of healthy and easy-to-prepare food for the weekend. Developed in partnership with ELCA congregations already engaged in backpack buddy programs across the country, this helpful guide contains tips for starting a backpack ministry in your community.

Order our free How-to Guide at Resources.ELCA.org.

Start planning a community garden

What makes a garden a community garden? How can growing food for ourselves and our neighbors transform our congregations? Learn this and more in ELCA World Hunger's Community Gardens How-To Guide. The guide is filled with wisdom harvested by ELCA congregations whose community gardens have become vital parts of their ministry. You’ll find practical tips on logistics, crafting a vision and incorporating your garden into the life of your congregation.

Download the guide for free at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the “Hunger Ed” tab.
Global Farm Challenge
DIY experience

Almost 80 percent of all the world’s food is produced on small farms where parents and children often work side by side. Growing food is just one of the many ways farmers care for God’s creation and help share God’s gifts with others so that all are fed. Yet half of the world’s 815 million undernourished people live on farms themselves.

ELCA World Hunger’s Global Farm Challenge is an initiative to raise awareness and funds to equip our neighbors experiencing hunger with the livestock, seeds, tools, training and other agriculture-related activities to turn a hungry season into a hopeful season.

Inspired by the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering experience, the Global Farm Challenge do-it-yourself guide allows you to create your own Global Farm Challenge track in your church. A 360-degree virtual reality video is also available at youtube.com/ELCA. Learn more about the video on page 4 of this action guide.
God’s Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need, providing food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and milk, honey or eggs to sell at the market. Use these ideas and resources about animals to educate, engage and raise money through ELCA Good Gifts. Children can have fun looking at the images of the animals and learning about each of them.

Coin boxes

Involve your congregation in ELCA Good Gifts outside of Sundays. Encourage members to take these coin boxes home to collect change throughout Advent. Invite them to use the money they collect to purchase ELCA Good Gifts either on their own or through your congregation.

Saving in this piggy bank is easy!

Just $30 provides a family with a piglet that grows up, gives birth to other piglets, and provides fertilizer for fields and food to eat and sell at the market.
Order these fun resources and activities to teach the children in your congregation all about God’s Global Barnyard:

**Coloring bulletin insert**
Distribute these coloring bulletin inserts to children during worship or Sunday school. The back side of the coloring sheet contains pictures and information about each animal.

**Coloring book**
Order this coloring book for Sunday school or as a special handout at worship. As children color each of the eight animals, teach them the significance livestock can have in communities around the world. Pair the activities with an ELCA Good Gifts fundraiser to support ELCA World Hunger’s animal projects.

**Stickers**
Share a pig, cow, chicken or other barnyard friend during a children’s sermon or Sunday school class while teaching children about the difference an animal makes to a family in need.

Order free coin boxes, coloring books and sticker sheets at Resources.ELCA.org.
Going further

We recite this line every week at church, “Give us this day our daily bread.” But what is “daily bread?” As you can see in Luther’s explanation, we are fed by more than just physical food.

**QUESTION:** What unexpected things does Luther include in his list of “daily bread”? Why are each of these important for our daily lives?

When we pray for our “daily bread,” we trust that God has provided everything we need and that God has given us enough for everyone. One way to think about this is as “God’s abundance.” Abundance means more than enough. Often, it’s easy to think that there isn’t enough for everyone and that if one person gains another person must lose. This is called scarcity.

As Christians, we are called to respond to claims of scarcity by preaching God’s abundance.

**How would you act if you thought there weren’t enough basic necessities for everyone?**

**How would you act if you believed that God has provided our world with more than enough resources for everyone?**

**Luther’s lens (Small Catechism)**

“God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.”

**Luther’s explanation (Large Catechism)**

“Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”

**COMING SOON:** Two new lessons about the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed and the Eighth Commandment.

**IDEAS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**New!**

**Hunger Catechism: Daily Bread**

**BIG IDEA:** “Give us this day our daily bread”: A world of abundance | Reading: John 6:32–35

**Purpose**

This lesson discusses the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, Martin Luther’s interpretation, and how we can live out this statement with our neighbor. It also covers how hunger and poverty directly relate to the Lord’s Prayer, as well as how we are called to create communities where all are fed.

**Commandment and focus**

**FOURTH PETITION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER:** Give us this day our daily bread.

**FOCUS QUESTION:** How are we called to live, as people of faith, in a world of abundance?

**JOHN 6:32–35**

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

**Hunger catechisms**

These lessons for confirmation students and youth groups cover Martin Luther’s interpretation of the Fifth Commandment, the Seventh Commandment and the fourth petition of the Lord’s Prayer. The easy-to-use format is perfect for classes or one-on-one conversations with parents or mentors.

Download and print from ELCA.org/hunger/resources in the “Hunger Ed” tab.
God’s Good Creation VBS

Celebrate “God’s Good Creation” with ELCA World Hunger’s vacation Bible school program! The theme for each day is focused on one animal from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog, including bees, goats and chicks. There are materials for large group gatherings, crafts, theme snacks, Bible reflections and more!

Vacation Bible school program

“Who is My Neighbor?” is a vacation Bible school program that helps children learn about hunger, hope and the work to which God calls us in the world. The five-day program highlights ELCA World Hunger’s work and includes a schedule, educational activities, hymns/songs, skits, and snack and craft ideas.

Download and print from ELCA.org/hunger/resources in the “Hunger Ed” tab.
Thank You!

For four years,

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA has brought this church together alongside the “great cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 12:1a) throughout generations and around the world. Together, we’ve renewed and strengthened our commitment to the ministries we share.

God’s grace has blessed the work of these last four years in incredible ways. In 2017, ELCA World Hunger was able to provide more than $23 million to activities and programs to address hunger and its root causes with sustainable solutions. This work has been made possible because of the hope and energy of people like you, inspired by faith and united in our commitment to a just world where all are fed. Thank you!

In this final year of the campaign, we look back at how far we have come as church together – and ahead to “the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1b) – with faithful confidence that the growth we have seen reflects who God is calling us to be.

To learn more and donate, visit ELCA.org/hunger.