

E L C A W O R L D H U N G E R ' S

# ACTION GUIDE

*for* CONGREGATIONS

JOIN IN  
THE JOURNEY  
THIS LENT!

ELCA World Hunger's  
**40 DAYS**  
*of Giving*  
2017

*Children participate in worship at  
Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Wis.*



**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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 truly will be 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 offers some new and exciting ways to help you continue this good work.



### Find

Visit [ELCA.org/hunger](https://www.elca.org/hunger) to find nearly all the resources you see here (and more).



### Connect

ELCA World Hunger is on:



[Facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://www.facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger)



[Twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger)



[Instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://www.instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger)



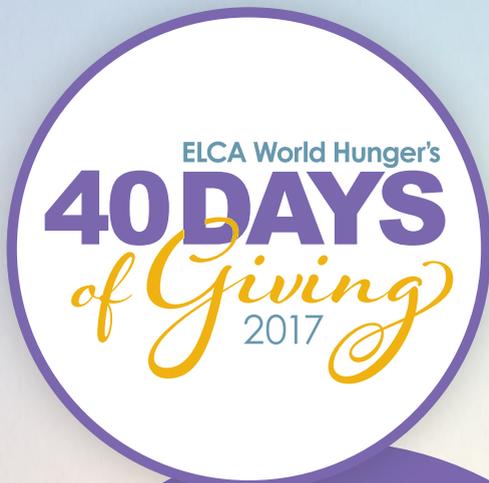
### Tell Us

Was your activity a great success? Send photos and stories to [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).

## Table of contents

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving	3
Lenten devotional and study	8
More Lent resources	10
Save the date	11
Activity sheet	12
Top 10 ELCA World Hunger resources	14





## WHAT IS IT?

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving is a special opportunity for you and your congregation to lift up our church's hunger and poverty ministry during Lent.

In this time of reflection and self-examination, ELCA World Hunger has prepared special resources and opportunities for you to draw nearer to God while learning and participating in ways to address hunger and poverty, specifically around economic justice.

## HOW DO YOU JOIN?

Join ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving 2017 through prayer, education and financial support. Together, our goal for 2017 is to raise **\$1.5 million** during Lent. Special resources have been created for you and your congregation to join in.

- ✓ Order your 2017 Lent devotional flip calendar (see page 8). **Don't wait! Limited supply available.**
- ✓ Sign-up to receive daily devotions in your email inbox during Lent.
- ✓ Use the Lenten Study and accompanying children's resource for a multi-generational education series.
- ✓ Order the book "The Forgotten Luther" and use the accompanying discussion guide and videos.

## WHY NOW?

In the season of Lent we are confronted as sinful, exposed as vulnerable, and, ultimately, saved as God's beloved. As we embark on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, what better time to reflect on the power of God's self-giving love that transforms and challenges each of us?

The connection between faith, worship and justice was central for Martin Luther. His concern for the poor and his sharp rebuke of economic injustice laid the foundation for us today to see the many ways our faith calls us to strive for justice in our world. In this, the 500th year since the Reformation, Luther's call for economic justice is more pressing than ever.

Today, 1 in 9 people faces hunger and 1 in 7 lives in extreme poverty. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. Making sure someone has enough food for the day is not enough. Together, we must look toward the future of this church and boldly respond to the needs of the world. We cannot lose ground. Join us on the journey as we creatively and courageously work toward a just world where all are fed and the cycle of hunger and poverty is broken – for good.

Visit [ELCA.org/40Days](http://ELCA.org/40Days) for more information, special resources and to join us in the journey. Make gifts to ELCA World Hunger and write "ELCA WH Lent" on your check's memo line.

ELCA World Hunger's  
**40 DAYS**  
*of Giving*  
2017

## *Get started*

Through ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, we invite you and your congregation to pray, act and hope that through economic life and justice there truly will be sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all. By joining together, our goal for 2017 is to raise \$1.5 million during Lent. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger will help our global family access opportunities and earn a fair, sustainable living with dignity.



### 1. SET A GOAL

*Don't have one but want to start one?  
Email [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org)!*

Meet with your congregation's finance and/or ELCA World Hunger committee to determine your goal for ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Consider your congregation's giving history to ELCA World Hunger, including how much is usually raised during Lent and ways you can grow this amount during this special initiative. See a breakdown of sample goal amounts and how to reach those goals on pages 6 and 7.

#### *Why it's important*

*"Previously, no goal was set, but we were able to raise \$100. Recently, Pastor Justin challenged me to raise the goal and see if we could meet it. We set a goal to raise \$500 to be able to donate a cow through ELCA Good Gifts and we did!"*

*– Janice Swinford, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Woodstock, Ga.*



## 2. FUNDRAISE

Find several ways you can participate. Implement a few initiatives or try them all to help your congregation reach its goal. View a full list of initiatives, testimonials from congregations who participated last year, and ideas on pages 6 and 7.

### *Idea to try*

*Put out a number of envelopes, each with a dollar figure on the front ranging from \$1 to \$150. People pick one up and return it with a check for that amount.*



## 3. INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN

Let members know your congregation will be participating in this ELCA-wide initiative. Download and use the ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving bulletin insert to spread the word in your congregation (find at [ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources](http://ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources)).

### *Don't forget*

*Plan to involve all generations and all committees and ministries. Everyone can contribute and have fun!*



## 4. USE RESOURCES

Resources have been created for you and your congregation to journey through Lent with ELCA World Hunger. Order the flip-calendar devotional, go digital and receive a daily devotion in your inbox (sign up at [ELCA.org/40Days](http://ELCA.org/40Days)), use the Lenten Study for an intergenerational education series and find many more ELCA World Hunger-related resources.

### *Find*

*Order or download all ELCA World Hunger resources for free at [ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources](http://ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources).*



## 5. GO DIGITAL

Create your own initiative through the ELCA's individual fundraising website. Customize this peer-to-peer website and encourage your friends, family and members to join in this effort through a donation to ELCA World Hunger. Visit [ELCA.org/TeamELCA](http://ELCA.org/TeamELCA) to set up a page today. More on Team ELCA is found on page 15.

# Setting your congregation's goal

Every congregation is different, and there are many ways to set goals and plans for growing your support of ELCA World Hunger through the 40 Days of Giving during Lent. Below you will find suggested goal amounts, ideas to help you reach your goal, and thoughts from congregations just like yours. You can choose to follow one of these plans or create your own.

## The **\$10,000** challenge

Does your congregation have a strong history of support for ELCA World Hunger or many members actively participating in the congregation's ministries? Take the \$10,000 challenge!



*"We took on the \$10K challenge and then asked for 250 households to pledge \$1 a day for 40 days. Between that and selling Valentine's Day cards and Easter coloring sheets, we well exceeded our goal!"*

– **SARAH HULSLANDER**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**Cherry Hills Village, Col.**

## The **\$5,000** challenge

Is your congregation engaged in ELCA World Hunger's work but wants to deepen its understanding and support of these ministries? Consider taking the \$5,000 challenge!

*"We challenged people to walk, to fast, to pray, to slurp soup, to buy chicks, to practice grocery shopping on a SNAP budget, to purchase ELCA Good Gifts, to fill coin boxes, to write checks, to send valentines. There were days, early on, when it felt like an act of holy hubris to take on such a challenge. But our congregation, like so many of yours, is both transformed and transforming. That small Lent success is becoming a model for our whole ministry."*

– **THE REV. JOANN A. POST**  
**Lutheran Church of the Ascension**  
**Northfield, Ill.**

## The **\$2,000** challenge

Is your congregation getting involved with ELCA World Hunger for the first time or re-engaging after time away? The \$2,000 challenge is a great way to kick-start your involvement.



*"We liked the idea of the ELCA Good Gifts catalog 'latrines' and set a goal of 10 latrines or \$1,500. The congregation loved the idea of helping someone have a safe place to 'go.' Each week we met our goal and set a new goal. On Easter we met our final goal of 35 latrines!"*

– **JUDY MAIER**  
**St. Luke Lutheran Church**  
**Richmond, Va.**



# Way to go!

Each congregation in these categories or more – \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,000 – will receive a special certificate recognizing its efforts to help end hunger and poverty through ELCA World Hunger. Thank you!

## Need help?

Need help determining a goal or have a question about ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving? We're here to help!

Feel free to contact us at [Hunger@elca.org](mailto:Hunger@elca.org) or 800-638-3522, ext. 2616.



## Make it count!

To make sure your gift counts, give to ELCA World Hunger, write "ELCA WH Lent" on your check's memo line and post mark by Sunday, April 30.

Give online at [ELCA.org/Hunger/Donate](https://ELCA.org/Hunger/Donate).



Share your story using **#ELCAWHLent!**

- [Facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://Facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger)
- [Twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://Twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger)
- [Instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://Instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger)

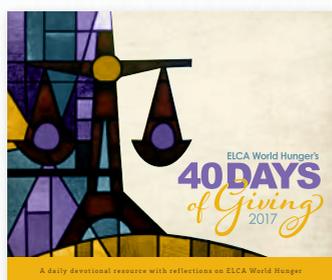


"The entire congregation worked together and also involved the community in this effort. Not only did we **celebrate the support we were able to share**, but we also were able to celebrate the way the **Spirit moved our entire congregation to a new level of joy-filled generosity!**"

**THE REV. GREG BUSBOOM**  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield, Ill.

# Reflect

Once your congregation has decided to participate in ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, be sure to order the daily devotional and accompanying study. The devotional can be in the form of a desktop flip-calendar or daily email. Each week will follow the lectionary, and each day will offer Scripture, questions, reflections, art, prayers or connections to our church's commitment to pursuing a just world where all are fed.



**Sample devotion from  
ELCA World Hunger's  
40-Day Devotional.**



Wednesday, March 1, 2017

## ASH WEDNESDAY

"God's reign intersects earthly life, transforming us and how we view the systems of this world. ... Economic life is intended to be a means through which God's purposes for humankind and creation are to be served. When this does not occur, as a church we cannot remain silent because of who and whose we are."

- ELCA, "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All:  
A Social Statement on Economic Life"



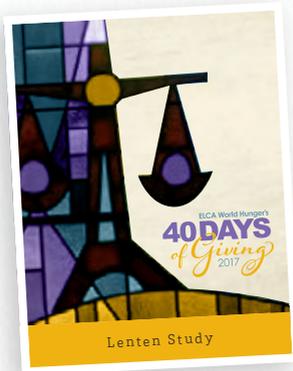
**Don't forget!**

Order a daily devotion flip-calendar for you or your congregation at [ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources](http://ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources).

**Limited supplies are available; please order one per household!**

Sign-up to receive the daily devotion in an email during Lent at [ELCA.org/40Days](http://ELCA.org/40Days).

# Study



## Lenten Study

The Lenten Study is a five-week educational series that uncovers how our Lutheran faith shapes our perspective and role in the economy. Each week looks at one key aspect of the economy and explores questions related to economic justice. Find an accompanying children's study, featuring a set of weekly activities that relate to the themes. **A study for all generations!**

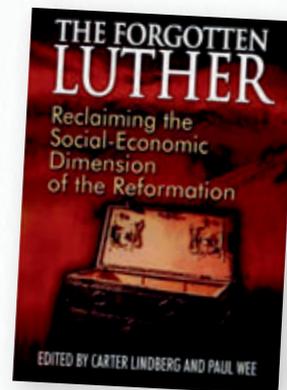
Order a limited supply or download at [ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources](http://ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources).

# Learn

## "The Forgotten Luther"

In "The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation," Lutheran scholars explore Martin Luther's writings and relate them to the challenges Christians face in our world today. Experts trace the roots of charity and justice in Luther's writings – from his call for economic reforms to his support for job-training programs, fair economic policies and service to the neighbor. The book comes with discussion questions to guide reflection, and you can find videos from the Forgotten Luther conference along with short interviews from the authors.

Purchase the book for \$15 from The Lutheran University Press at [Lutheranupress.org/Books/Forgotten\\_Luther](http://Lutheranupress.org/Books/Forgotten_Luther).



Watch the videos for free at [Vimeo.com/album/4043021](http://Vimeo.com/album/4043021).

# More *Lent* Resources

## Lenten Litany

Throughout the ages, O God,  
**you have abundantly blessed your people.**  
Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation:  
plants yielding seed,  
**and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear  
fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.**  
[Genesis 1:11]

The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did  
the jug of oil fail,  
**according to the word of the Lord that he spoke  
by Elijah.**  
[1 Kings 17:16]

For the Lord satisfies the thirsty,  
**and the hungry the Lord fills with good things.**  
[Psalm 107:9]

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had  
given thanks,  
**he distributed them to those who were seated;  
so also the fish, as much as they wanted.**  
[John 6:11]

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life,  
**and have it abundantly."**  
[John 10:10]

St. Paul writes, "And God is able to provide  
you with every blessing in abundance,  
**so that by always having enough of everything  
you may share abundantly in every good work."**  
[2 Corinthians 9:8]

**Amen.**



## Lenten Meal Series

Does your congregation host meals before Lenten services? Enjoy global cuisine while learning about the world and how gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. Choose from 18 themes that feature global recipes, table prayers, country statistics, table tents and more. Instead of charging for the meal, consider taking a free-will offering to support the work of ELCA World Hunger.



Download each meal series at  
[ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources](http://ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources)  
under the "Lent & Easter" tab.

## Buck-a-chick

Invite Sunday school children and members of your congregation to purchase and decorate a paper chick for themselves or in honor of friends and loved ones. Just \$1 can provide a chick for a family in need. Collect funds and donate to ELCA World Hunger where they will be used to provide families with chickens or other animals and the resources they need to escape hunger and poverty for good.



Download the coloring sheet at  
[ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources](http://ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources)  
under the "Lent & Easter" tab.

# Save the date!

## Sunday, Feb. 5

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Did you know American consumers spend more than \$10 billion on food and other items for the Super Bowl each year?<sup>1</sup> Imagine if those dollars were instead put toward ending hunger. This year, get your congregation involved in Souper Bowl of Caring, a national effort to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this initiative, youth are encouraged to take up a collection asking for one dollar or one food item for people in need, culminating on Super Bowl Sunday. Find resources, register to be a part of the movement and more at [SouperBowl.org](http://SouperBowl.org). Designate monetary gifts to ELCA World Hunger.



#### Try this!

**Road Map to Food Drives**, a by-youth, for-youth guide that offers step-by-step advice for planning and preparing a youth-led food drive. This guide will help your group act lovingly and wisely as you fight hunger in your community.



Download the guide for free at [ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources](http://ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources) under the "Hunger Ed" tab.

#### Consider this!

**Want to make a difference locally and around the world?** Consider donating food items to the local pantry and money to ELCA World Hunger. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger support projects and programs in the U.S. and in nearly 60 countries around the world.

## Sunday, Feb. 12

### GET READY FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

The Sunday before Valentine's Day, spread the love to ELCA World Hunger's ministries throughout the world with ELCA Good Gifts grams and children's color-your-own valentines. ELCA Good Gifts grams may be purchased in honor of your friend, child or significant other to celebrate Valentine's Day. Take a donation for these ELCA Good Gifts grams prior to Valentine's Day, before or after worship as a special way to celebrate the holiday while giving back to ELCA World Hunger. Special coloring sheets for Valentine's Day are also available for kids of all ages.



Order for free ELCA Good Gifts grams (Valentine's Day cards) and spread the love.



Download ELCA Good Gift coloring pages and encourage support of ELCA Good Gifts.

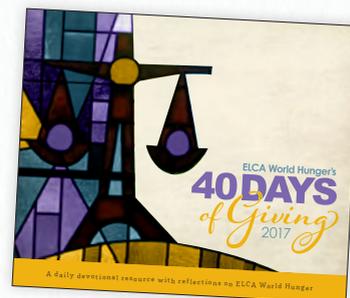
## March 1

### ASH WEDNESDAY

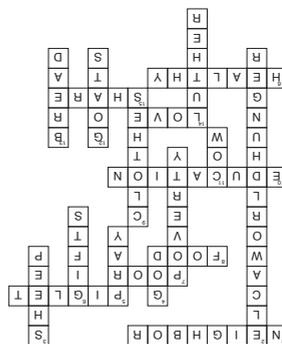
## April 16

### EASTER SUNDAY

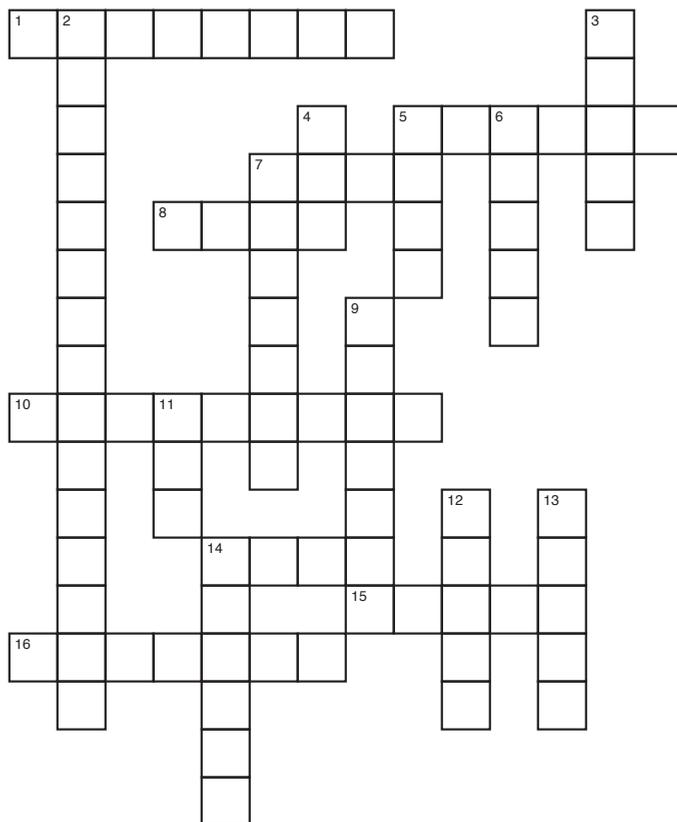
Make change for good by fundraising for ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Be sure to join the journey toward the \$1.5 million goal. Mail your 40 Days of Giving gifts, made out to "ELCA World Hunger" and write "ELCA WH Lent" on the memo line and post mark by Sunday, April 30, to ensure your gifts are counted toward the goal. Share your journey on social media using #ELCAWHLent.



<sup>1</sup>U.S. News, 6 Numbers to Know for Super Bowl, Sunday, Jan. 29, 2015.



ELCA World Hunger creatively and courageously works toward a just world where all are fed. Complete the crossword below with answers related to our work together as church. Fill in each word or words using one letter for each box that completes the clue.



**Across**

1. Jesus says to "love your \_\_\_ as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).
5. A \_\_\_ can grow to weigh more than 200 pounds and can get a big price at market.
7. People who are \_\_\_ do not have enough money for food, clothing, education and health care.
8. Our church supports projects that help families get enough \_\_\_ to eat.
10. Our church works together so kids can go to school and get an \_\_\_.
14. Helping others reflects God's \_\_\_ and makes a difference in people's lives.
15. God wants us to \_\_\_ what we have with others.
16. By supporting programs that provide food and medicine, we create \_\_\_ families.

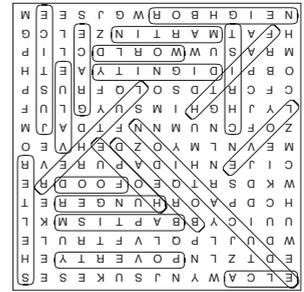
**Down**

2. Through \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (3 words), our church funds programs so all may be fed.
3. Their wool can be sold or made into hats, sweaters, coats and blankets to keep a family warm.
4. \_\_\_ created the world.
5. We \_\_\_ the Lord's Prayer.
6. Your \_\_\_ can provide animals, food, education, health care and more to someone in need.
7. The lack of money or possessions.
9. Together, our church provides gifts so others have \_\_\_ to wear.
11. A \_\_\_ can produce as much as 5 gallons of milk each day.
12. These animals can go where others cannot and their milk provides daily nutrition for children.
13. "Give us this day our daily \_\_\_" (Lord's Prayer).
14. Martin \_\_\_, a German theologian who led the Reformation.



**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

ELCA World Hunger creatively and courageously works toward a just world where all are fed. In the box below, search up, down, forward, backward and diagonal to find hidden words that relate to our work together as church.



- |           |         |         |         |        |         |          |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| ELCA      | WORLD   | HUNGER  | MARTIN  | LUTHER | JUSTICE | NEIGHBOR |
| GRACE     | BAPTISM | BREAD   | POVERTY | FOOD   | LOVE    | FAITH    |
| EDUCATION | DIGNITY | SHELTER | CHRIST  | HOPE   | VALUE   |          |

# ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S top 10 resources

ELCA World Hunger has a variety of resources designed to help you and members of your congregation integrate hunger themes throughout worship and congregational life. From educational events to fundraising initiatives, posters to piggy banks – you can find resources for all ages and group sizes. Download or order the resources below and many more at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](http://ELCA.org/hunger/resources).



## BROCHURE AND OFFERING ENVELOPE

Use this eight-page brochure and offering envelope in a variety of settings, providing a brief overview of ELCA World Hunger, our church's response to hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world.

## ELCA GOOD GIFTS CATALOG

The ELCA Good Gifts catalog offers more than 50 gift-giving options – from 10 little chicks to water wells – to help people in need. Browse the catalog with your Sunday school class or congregation and set a fundraising goal. Once you've met your goal, you can purchase gifts collectively.



## REPRODUCIBLE STORIES

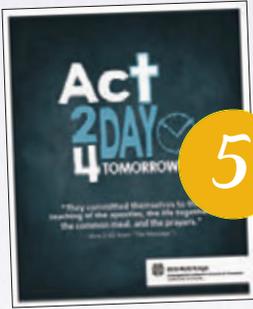
Share stories of people whose lives have been changed by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Reproducible stories from ELCA World Hunger are designed to fit inside your worship bulletin, and 14 new stories are available annually.



## PIGGY BANK

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Just \$30 can provide a piglet, and when it grows up, it will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income. Set a goal of \$30 per family and collect the offering in this cute piggy bank!





## ACT 2DAY 4 TOMORROW

This intergenerational resource, designed for a variety group sizes, takes you through a meaningful experience of learning about hunger and faith. These activities can also be used for a lock-in or overnight experience. As the group takes part in the spiritual practice of fasting for the duration of the event, it will be led through four themes – with an overarching theme of table fellowship. Each theme is broken up into three lessons and can be adapted to different timeframes and settings. Bring people together for prayer, service, activities and more as they Act 2Day 4 Tomorrow.

## UPDATED TOOLKITS

These free, downloadable resources have recently been updated and allow you to mix and match lessons and activities to create the perfect plan for your age group and timeframe. Toolkits explore the root causes of hunger with suggestions for prayer, song, learning activities and more. Find a variety of topics, such as food and hunger or water and hunger, and many more.



## WALK FOR WATER: DO-IT-YOURSELF TRACK EXPERIENCE

Bring the ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water track experience to your congregation. The DIY kit gives you step-by-step instructions for creating firsthand what it is like to carry a 5-gallon jug of water (41.5 pounds) through a simulated water collection experience. Throughout the simulation, each person follows "stories" to guide them along the track. Newly added is a Flint, Mich., story track. Along the way, participants are confronted with obstacles that help them realize some of the struggles those walking for water may encounter.

## MAP POSTER

ELCA World Hunger works in nearly 60 countries around the world to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. See where we're at work and learn more about the type of work that we're doing in the world together. Display the map on a bulletin board or a prominent area in your congregation to show your support.



## TEAM ELCA

Have an idea for hosting an event or celebrating a special day (birthday or anniversary)? Team ELCA makes it easy for you to start a fundraiser in support of ELCA World Hunger. How? It's up to you! Be creative, think outside the box and have fun. Visit [ELCA.org/TeamELCA](http://ELCA.org/TeamELCA) for custom fundraising tools for individuals, teams and congregations.

## COMMUNITY GARDENS HOW-TO GUIDE

What makes a garden a community garden? How can growing food for ourselves and our neighbors transform our congregation? Learn this and more in this guide that 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.





**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

# Our Work in the World – Together

*ELCA World Hunger works to address hunger and poverty through education, advocacy, relief and sustainable development. From water wells to animal husbandry, microloans to health clinics, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger.*



## WATER AND SANITATION

Water for drinking, growing crops, sanitation and hygiene, paired with ongoing health education, training and maintenance helps create healthier families and stronger economies.



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Removing barriers to education allows children and adults to attend school and secure better opportunities for their future. Programs like literacy training and vocational education also help teens and adults gain skills to secure jobs and increase their earning potential.



## AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION

Soup kitchens, food pantries and meal programs provide immediate support to those in need. Community gardens and agricultural programs help families grow food to nourish themselves and build safer, healthier communities for the long term.



## INCOME AND SAVINGS

Microloans and income-generating activities allow families to start or upgrade their small businesses and pay for the essentials like food, medical costs and school fees, helping to end the cycle of poverty for good.



## HEALTH CARE AND PREVENTION

Clinics and community health programs provide health education and medical assistance for people living in poverty and work to halt epidemics like HIV and AIDS, malaria and waterborne illnesses.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, IL 60631-410 • 800-638-3522, ext. 2616 • ELCA.org/hunger • hunger@elca.org