

C O N G R E G A T I O N A L

ACTIVITY

Fall-Winter 2016

Guide



Edina Community Lutheran Church,
Edina, Minn.

Advent Calendar

Advent Study

ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
www.elca.org



Calvary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis



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



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to equip you with some of the newest and most popular resources to activate your congregation in the fight against hunger and poverty. 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 can help you continue to do just that in some new and exciting ways.

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

Lead!

Learn how you can become a hunger leader within your congregation. Join the special network of individuals and receive a monthly newsletter, exclusive webinar invitations, direct access to our newest resources and more! Email hunger@elca.org.



Was your activity a great success?

Tell us about it. Send photos and stories to hunger@elca.org or post on social media tagging ELCA World Hunger.

CONNECT

 Facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger

 Twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger

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SAVE THE DATE

Look at the calendar and save the date for an "End Hunger" Sunday. Have your congregation dedicate a Sunday once a month or year 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.



World Food Day is always Oct. 16, and this year it falls on a Sunday. Mark your calendar and join ELCA World Hunger and people around the world to commemorate this day. The goal of World Food Day is to create awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger as we work towards ensuring food security for all. Hunger is still one of the most urgent challenges that our sisters and brothers face, yet the world produces more than enough for all.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in fighting HIV and AIDS, supporting those who live with HIV and mourning those who have passed.

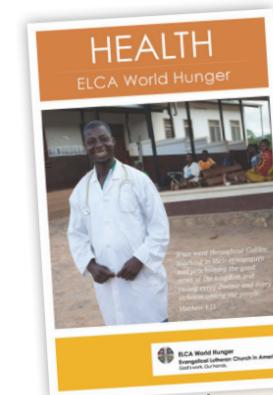
DID YOU KNOW?

- Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support programs related to health as part of our comprehensive approach to ending the hunger.
- Support for HIV and AIDS is part of ELCA World Hunger's health work – from education and support to hospitals and clinics, medication, testing and counseling. Your gifts help in all of these ways and more.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- The gospel for World Food Sunday is Luke 18:1-8, the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Make connections in your sermon to being persistent witnesses and facing injustice.
- Consider fasting on Sunday and praying for those who go hungry each day.
- Find ELCA World Hunger resources at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources and help educate or activate your congregation:
 - Act 2Day 4 Tomorrow, youth event around the spiritual practice of fasting
 - Road Map to Food Drives: A By-Youth, For-Youth Guide to Feeding Communities
 - Daily Bread: A Discussion Guide for Meal-Packing Events
 - Food for a Week, a hunger simulation
- Learn about important ways your congregation can be involved in ELCA Advocacy initiatives at ELCA.org/advocacy.

• Take a special offering for ELCA World Hunger and help fight hunger in more than 60 countries, including the U.S.



Try this!

Find health brochures that give brief descriptions about how ELCA World Hunger supports health-related programs.

Share stories



Find ways you can tell the story of how your gifts to ELCA World Hunger have changed the lives of people throughout the world and in the U.S.

Brochure and envelope

Looking for an easy way to inform your congregation about our church's work in ending hunger? Order this colorful brochure and matching offering envelopes. Get an overview of ELCA World Hunger and how your support is at work throughout the world and in the U.S. Pass them out or tuck them into worship bulletins or church pews.



Order the free resources today at Resources.ELCA.org. Shipping is free!

Stories for bulletins

Include these inserts in your Sunday bulletin and share real-life stories of how your gifts are making a difference through ELCA World Hunger.

Find new stories annually at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources. Click on the "Stories & Videos" tab.



2016 bulletin insert

Order and insert this double-sided, 2016 ELCA World Hunger bulletin insert into your Sunday worship bulletin. Discover how your gifts are being used, and get a brief description of our church's response to hunger and poverty around the world and throughout the U.S.

Order the free resources today at Resources.ELCA.org. Shipping is free!

Play a video

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.

View videos at vimeo.com/channels/elcaworldhunger.

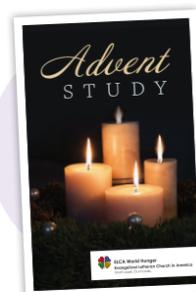


New ELCA World Hunger videos!



Saroj was one of the first women in her village in India to learn about the smokeless cook stove. The stove gives women 12-16 hours back 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 to make in-home smokeless stoves a reality.

The opportunity to serve and be served, a nutritious meal, and a time of prayer are what is offered weekly at Shobi's Table – a food truck that serves people experiencing homelessness in St. Paul, Minn. Community is at the heart of Shobi's Table's mission. Meet the team at Shobi's Table as they work to bring food and community to our sisters and brothers in St. Paul – work that would not be possible without your support of ELCA World Hunger.

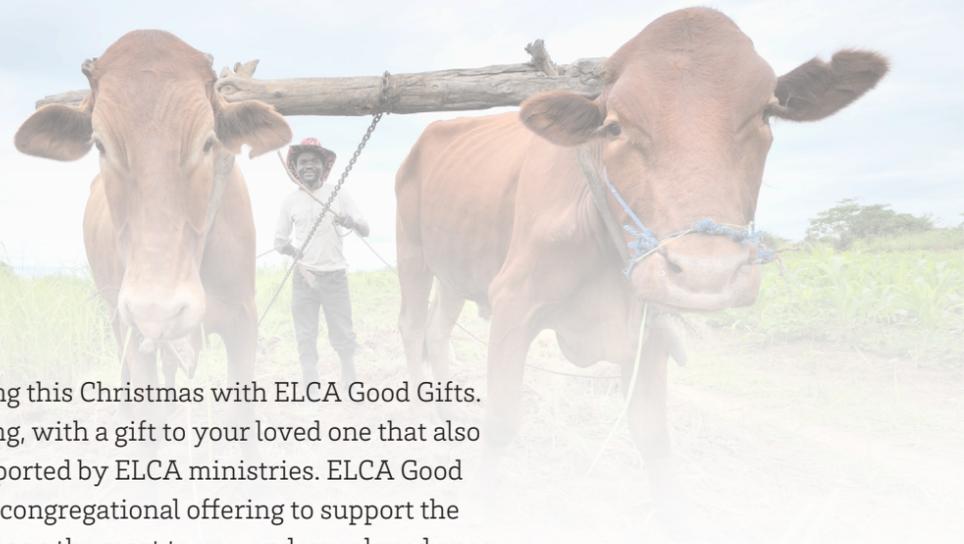


Advent Study

Looking for weekly devotions, complete with prayers, blessings and hymn suggestions? ELCA World Hunger's Advent Study is perfect for Wednesday worship, adult study or for members to take home and read each week during the season of Advent.

Download and print for free at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "General" tab.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS



Rethink traditional gift-giving this Christmas with ELCA Good Gifts. Give a gift that keeps on giving, with a gift to your 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 these 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 ministries. Leave multiple copies of the catalog out in a prominent place, and encourage people to take the catalog home. Make an announcement to your congregation and encourage a different way of giving gifts this year. With more than 50 giving options, you're sure to find the perfect gift.



Easy ideas

1. Get Sunday school classes involved. Set a goal, collect money throughout Advent and purchase your gifts at the end.
2. Go with animals! Try a display or poster that adds animals to a barn or stable to show the animals that you've purchased through ELCA Good Gifts.
3. Piggy banks and barn boxes are an easy way to get families involved. Order free cardboard coin boxes (see page 9) and send them home with families. Set a goal for the congregation and encourage members to fill up the coin boxes with change.



Host an ELCA Good Gifts Fair

The ELCA Good Gifts Fair Planning Guide is complete with everything you need to host an event at your congregation to promote ELCA Good Gifts. You'll find step-by-step instructions on how to plan, spread the word and host your own event. The guide provides content for newsletters and bulletins, ideas for crafts and activities, and stories of how your ELCA Good Gifts make a difference in the world.



Order the free guide today at Resources.ELCA.org.

Advent tree

Decorate a Christmas tree with ornaments that represent ELCA Good Gifts – chicks, pigs, school supplies or latrines, for example – and 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. When the tree is empty, you'll know you've met your goal!

Order a free pack of 30 assorted ornaments at Resources.ELCA.org.



Send a card

If you give an ELCA Good Gift in honor of a friend or loved one, it's easy to tell them about it! Visit ELCA.org/GoodGifts for a selection of printed cards and eCards. Give online and you may request a printed card for each of your gifts to be mailed to your home.



Order a free pack of 10 matching ornaments at Resources.ELCA.org.

New!

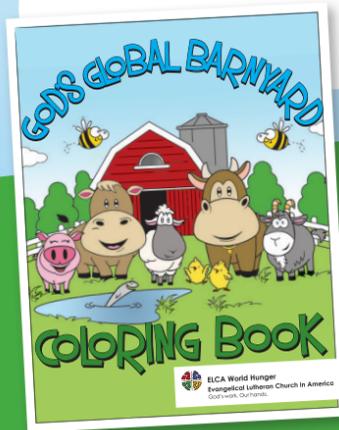
Decorate a whole tree with bees, chicks, pigs or goats.



God's Global Barnyard

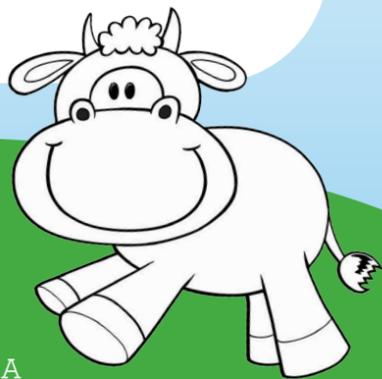
Did you know an animal can make a world of difference for a family in need?

That's why ELCA Good Gifts offers animals as gifts. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and milk, honey, and eggs to sell at the market. Find ideas and resources about animals to educate, engage and raise money through ELCA Good Gifts.



Coloring book

Order this fun 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 animal projects of ELCA World Hunger.



 Order packs of the coloring books for free at Resources.ELCA.org.

New!

Advent calendar

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



 Order for free at Resources.ELCA.org.

Coin boxes

Coin boxes can be a fun way to get the congregation involved beyond Sundays. Encourage members to take these coin boxes home to collect change throughout the weeks and bring back the money they collect to purchase ELCA Good Gifts.

 Order for free at Resources.ELCA.org.



This interactive barnyard box shows different animals and lists how each animal can make a difference for a family in need.

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.



Coloring bulletin insert

Distribute these fun coloring sheets in the form of a bulletin insert to children during worship or Sunday school while learning how animals make a difference for families in need. The back side of the coloring sheet contains pictures and information about each animal.

 Order the free bulletin inserts at Resources.ELCA.org.



Team ELCA

Have an idea for hosting an event or celebrating a special day? 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.

Get started!

1. CREATE YOUR EVENT

Visit ELCA.org/TeamELCA to design an individual or team fundraising event.

2. SET A GOAL

We'll make it easy to raise money and help you with fundraising tools.

3. CUSTOMIZE YOUR PAGE

Upload photos and videos to your personal page. You can customize your URL to make it easy for everyone to find your page!

4. INVITE OTHERS

Personal invitations through email can be done directly from your page. Use ready-to-go templates or customize your own. Reminders can also be done through social media.

5. CELEBRATE

Don't forget to thank your donors and keep participants informed about your progress and the impact of their giving.



Don't forget to tell the story of ELCA World Hunger and remind donors how their gifts are being used to make a lasting difference in the lives of people experiencing hunger and poverty. Share on social media [#ELCAWorldHunger](https://twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger) or hunger@elca.org.

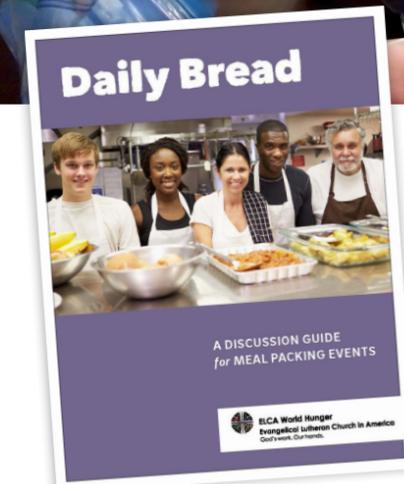


ELCA.org/TeamELCA

ELCA World Hunger has a variety of resources that can be applied to various settings. Find fun activities to help you and your group learn more about the issues of hunger and poverty and be inspired by what we can accomplish together.

FOOD

The earth produces enough food to feed everyone, yet many still go hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. Whether you or your congregation are packing meals, educating each other about food insecurity, collecting food for neighbors or looking to start a garden – ELCA World Hunger has resources to help get you started.



Prepare with Daily Bread

Is your congregation or youth group planning to pack meals? Get the most out of your experience by downloading "Daily Bread: A Discussion Guide for Meal Packing Events." With fun activities, prayers and stories based on real-life situations, this guide will help your group have deep, meaningful conversations about hunger, service and what it means to be church for the sake of the world.



Download the guide at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the "Hunger Ed" tab.

Food for a Week

This simulation helps participants walk in the shoes of neighbors who are hungry. Participants are assigned roles to play – grocer, food pantry volunteer, human-services worker, person who needs food – and walk through what it takes to get enough food to last a week. It includes a customizable PowerPoint presentation, a leader’s guide, handouts, and profiles of neighbors facing food insecurity.

LEADER’S GUIDE for an Interactive Hunger Simulation

Download Food for a Week at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the “Hunger Ed” tab.

Organize a food drive

Road Map to Food Drives 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. Written by two high-school students, this resource includes input from service providers, community agencies and youth to help you plan a unique experience for your congregation.

Download the guide for free at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the “Hunger Ed” tab.

1K Churches

Creating economic opportunities is a key way we can end hunger for good. This year, ELCA World Hunger and Criterion Institute introduce “1K Churches,” a Bible study and action guide to help your congregation take a step toward making a lasting impact in your community. Congregations will journey together through five Bible studies to learn more about the biblical vision of a local economy that serves the common good. Each session also offers an “investment pathway,” an action your congregation can take today to make a difference in your community. To learn more about this new and exciting program, contact hunger@ELCA.org.

Download a welcome letter at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the “General” tab.

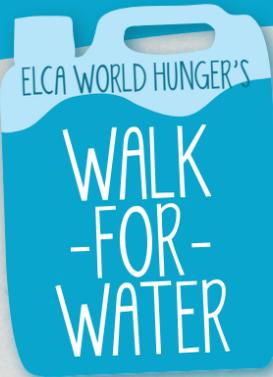
Community gardens guide

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

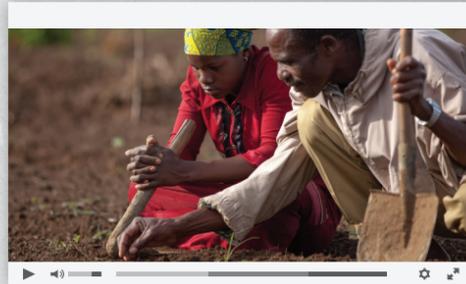
WATER

The global water crisis doesn't always make headlines. But the truth is that it claims more lives each year than war. That's why ELCA World Hunger supports many water-related projects and programs around the world and in the U.S. Find resources to help your congregation learn more.



Water videos

Watch a two-minute video that provides an overview of the water crisis and introduces ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water. View the story of DIKO Marie, a girl whose community now has access to clean water thanks to the support of ELCA World Hunger.



 Find the videos at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the "Walk for Water" tab.



Walk for Water: DIY Track Experience

At the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering, thousands of young people participated in ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water, an interactive track experience that brought them into the story of a person without access to clean water. Use the Walk for Water Do-It-Yourself Track Experience to create your own track in your church. Throughout the simulation, each person follows one of five "stories" to guide them through the track. Along the way, participants are confronted with different obstacles that help them realize some of the struggles those walking for water may encounter. It includes discussion guides, instructions, posters and signs. **New this year is an added Flint, Mich., track.**

 Download the resource for free at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the "Walk for Water" tab.



 Find more ELCA World Hunger posters to display. Order for free at Resources.ELCA.org.

New! Map poster

Our Work in the World - Together ELCA World Hunger works in nearly 60 countries around the world to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. See where we're working in 2016 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.

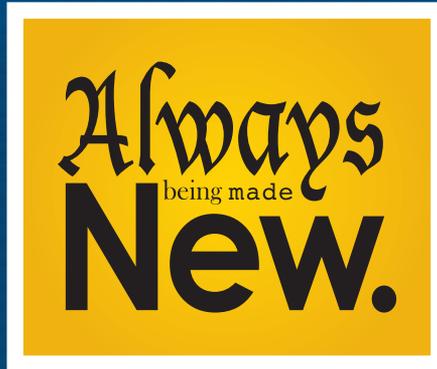
ELCA World Hunger's 40 DAYS of Giving

 Mark your calendars – plan for Lent!

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving will continue in 2017. Join thousands of ELCA members and congregations during the season of Lent and lift up the life-changing work of ELCA World Hunger. Whether it's through prayer, worship, educating others or financial support – ELCA World Hunger will provide resources to help you along the way. Look for more information and new resources coming soon!

Have questions or want to learn more?
 Email hunger@elca.org or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2616.

If you or your congregation participated earlier this year in ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving – thank you!



Did you know your congregation's giving to ELCA World Hunger is part of an ELCA-wide effort to raise \$198 million by Jan. 31, 2019?

ELCA World Hunger is one of 10 priorities of the ELCA's first-ever comprehensive campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, with a goal of \$115 million over a five-year period.

Thank you!

As we celebrate the campaign's year-of-emphasis on ELCA World Hunger in 2016, many of you joined us in lifting up this life-changing work through the Lenten challenge, ELCA Good Gifts and more. Thank you! Continue to walk with us as we work toward our five-year goal. With generous, loving hands, we work for a world in which all are fed.



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