

# ACTION GUIDE

*for* CONGREGATIONS

Tikkun Farm in  
Mount Healthy, Ohio



ELCA World Hunger

# HOW TO

# USE THIS GUIDE

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 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 for truly sufficient, sustainable livelihoods for all.

Chances are that your congregation is already committed to ending hunger and poverty by accompanying your neighbors, raising funds and collecting in-kind donations. This guide will equip you with the newest and most popular resources to activate your congregation as you continue that fight. Through God's work and together as a church, we are achieving things on a scale and scope we could never do alone.

## FIND

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

## CONNECT

Engage with the latest news and stories from ELCA World Hunger:

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

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

## TELL US

What is your congregation doing with ELCA World Hunger resources this year? We'd love to hear about it! Send your photos and stories to [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org) or post them to ELCA World Hunger's Facebook page at [facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://www.facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger).

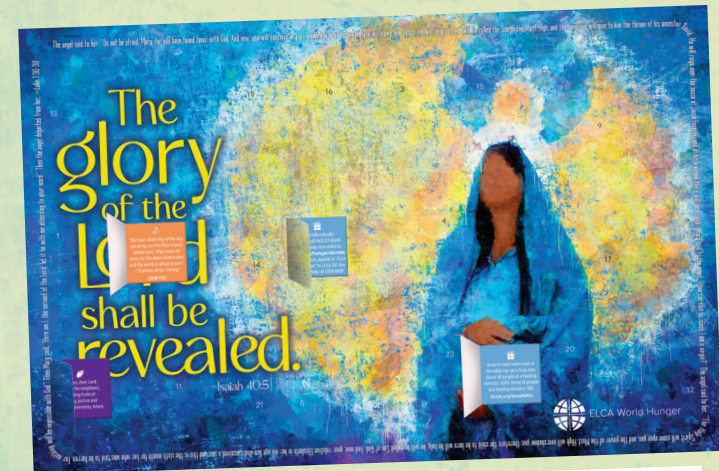
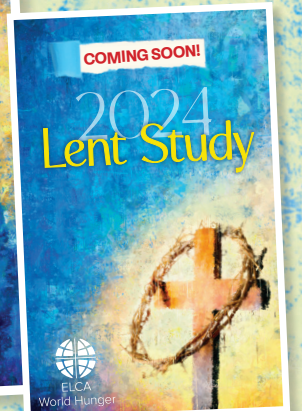
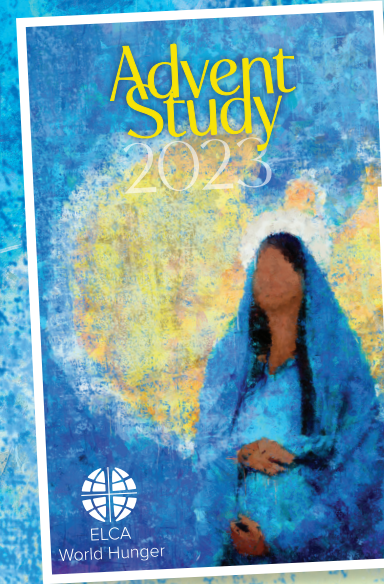
## LEAD!

Do you want to become a Hunger Leader in your congregation? Join a network of passionate leaders and receive a monthly newsletter, exclusive event invitations, direct access to our newest resources and more. Visit [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe) to sign up today.



- Seasonal ideas 3
- Save the date 5
- ELCA Good Gifts 6
- Ideas for congregations 8
- Resources 10
- Ideas for worship 11
- Educate, engage, inspire 12
- Ideas for children and youth 13

# The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.



Where and how do you encounter God? Through the prophet Isaiah, God urges us to take comfort, trusting that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together" (Isaiah 40:5). At a time when our world bears the wounds of conflict, hunger and disaster, it can be challenging to uncover where and how God is at work. **Yet we know in faith that God is actively working in the world, transforming, reconciling, sustaining and inciting us to ever-greater acts of justice and mercy.**

In the season of **Advent**, we reflect on our biblical ancestors, waiting for the coming of the Messiah as they, too, longed for God to be revealed, "to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things" (Luke 1:52-53). In the season of **Lent**, we remember the journey of the Hebrews, wandering through the wilderness toward their promised future, and the journey of Christ to the cross.

**As we wait and watch during Advent and as we journey and seek in Lent, join ELCA World Hunger as we discern the ways we encounter the living God today.** Through reflection on the stories of our biblical past and the stories of ministries responding to hunger and poverty today, we will explore together the many ways "the glory of the Lord" is revealed in communities that have come together to confront deep challenges with strength, hope and longing for a just world where all are fed.



## STUDY GUIDES

Join ELCA World Hunger this Advent and Lent through study, reflection, prayer and worship. The 2023 Advent and 2024 Lent studies are full of new weekly devotions. Use these guides during weekly worship or adult study groups, in person or online, or encourage members to read it each week of the season at home.

**“[My daughter and I are] happy to belong to the Lutheran family, [and] we have both found enough reasons in this church to change our lives. Now I can share what I know how to do, and that’s what God has given me.”**

—Martha, a member of Iglesia Luterana San Andres, came to the church through the weekly food pantry, a ministry supported in part by ELCA World Hunger.

Each session of the Advent and Lent study guides features the story of someone around the world who benefits from the work of ELCA World Hunger. Read Martha’s story in Week 3 of the Advent study guide.

Download a free copy at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://resources.ELCA.org/hunger/resources) under the “Seasonal” tab or order printed copies online at [resources.ELCA.org/](https://resources.ELCA.org/).

## CALENDARS

Utilize ELCA World Hunger’s new calendars through two of the church’s most significant liturgical seasons, Advent and Lent. Each day’s entry invites praise and reflection with Scripture, song prayers and more as we celebrate the good news of Christ’s birth and await the resurrection with hope in God’s promised future.

Visit [resources.ELCA.org](https://resources.ELCA.org) to order free calendars to distribute to families in your congregation. Advent calendars come in packs of 10; Lent calendars are packaged individually.

## Celebrate 50 years of impact through ELCA World Hunger in 2024.



Even as we have worked to transform the world with and for our neighbors through ELCA World Hunger over the last fifty years, our church has been transformed. Together we have learned how hunger, poverty and other justice issues intersect. We have deepened our understanding of how baptism calls us to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” We have been strengthened in hope by the decline in hunger since we began this work. And we have nurtured relationships with local communities to ensure that the work we support will be sustainable, effective and authentic.

We have been part of this story — a story of faith in action, a story of hope, but most of all a story of a church set free for bold, abundant love and service, a church that responds, with creativity and courage, to God’s invitation to transform the world.

**JOIN US AND BE PART OF THE STORY OF OUR NEXT 50 YEARS TOGETHER — boldly and hopefully pursuing God’s promise of a just world where all are fed.**



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE  
the table Young Adult Gathering

Save the date for the **ELCA Youth Gathering**  
July 16-20, 2024 | New Orleans, La.

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Be on the lookout for ways youth and your congregation can get involved with ELCA World Hunger leading up to and during the Youth Gathering!

Learn more at [ELCA.church/Gathering](https://ELCA.church/Gathering).



# ELCA GOOD GIFTS

## Rethink gift-giving with ELCA Good Gifts

The average American spends more than \$900 a year on Christmas gifts. Yet, when we think about the best gifts we have given or received, often what makes them memorable is not the gift itself but the story behind it.

ELCA Good Gifts enable you to purchase a gift in honor of a loved one and support real projects from a variety of ELCA ministries — including ELCA World Hunger.

Check out some fun and educational ways to get your congregation involved with ELCA Good Gifts:

### Advent tree

Decorate your congregation's Christmas tree with ornaments that represent donations to ELCA Good Gifts and invite friends and family to take home an ornament representing the gift they'd like to give as a reminder. Keep the tree full of ornaments to encourage participation and to celebrate the work the whole church is doing!

Visit [resources.ELCA.org](https://resources.ELCA.org) to order a free pack of 34 assorted ornaments, or use a free pack of 10 matching ornaments to decorate a whole tree with bees, pigs or goats!



### Good Gifts cards for Christmas and Easter

When you give an ELCA Good Gift in honor of a friend or loved one, send a card to tell them about it! Visit [ELCA.org/GoodGifts](https://ELCA.org/GoodGifts) to give online and personalize free, printed cards to be mailed to yourself or directly to your loved ones. You may also download a card to print at home, or have cards delivered to recipients by email.

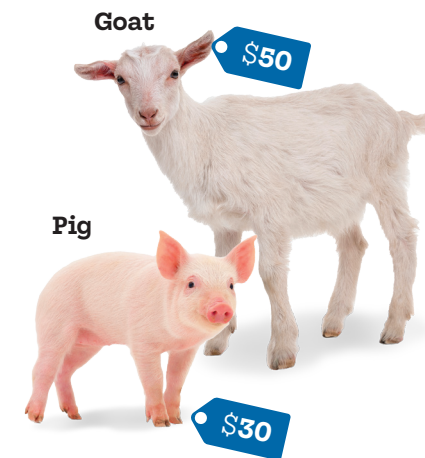


## Spread the word!

ELCA Good Gifts are a fun, interactive way to support ELCA World Hunger. Spread the word in your congregation that there's a different way to give this year! With more than 50 giving options, your members are sure to find gifts that inspire them to help people in need.

## Popular ELCA GOOD GIFTS!

Your congregation can raise funds for a family farm. Visit [ELCA.org/GoodGifts](https://ELCA.org/GoodGifts) to learn more about group gifts.



## Get ready for Valentine's Day

On the Sunday before Valentine's Day, spread the love with ELCA Good Gifts—grams and children's color-your-own valentines. Purchase ELCA Good Gifts—grams to honor a friend, child or significant other on Valentine's Day. Or collect donations for ELCA Good Gifts—grams prior to Valentine's Day, either before or after worship, as a special way to celebrate the holiday while giving to ELCA World Hunger. Special coloring sheets are available for kids of all ages.

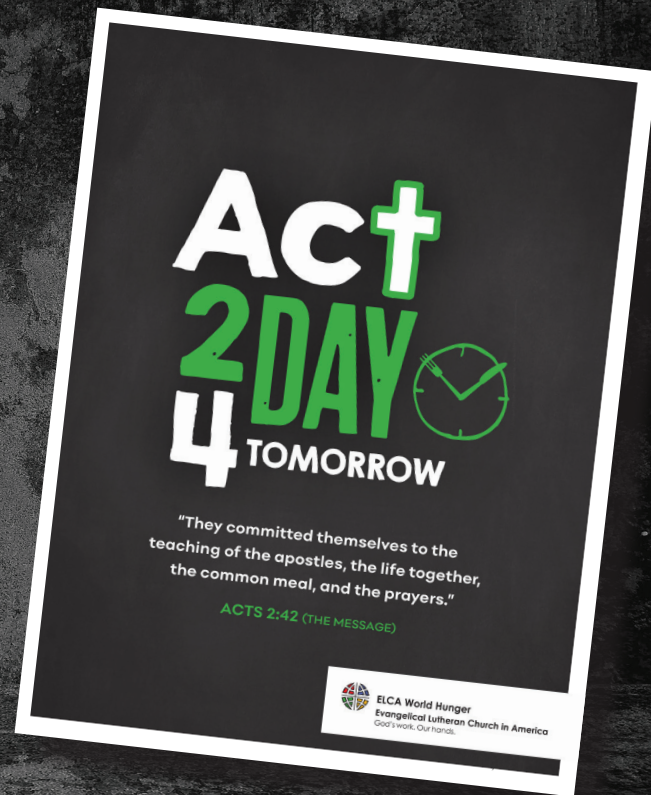


Visit [resources.ELCA.org](https://resources.ELCA.org) to order your Valentine's Day—grams today. Coloring sheets can be downloaded at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://ELCA.org/hunger/resources) under the "General" tab.

## Act 2Day 4 Tomorrow

Looking for an overnight program for youth or fun learning activities for people of all ages? Spend your next Sunday school series learning about the root causes of hunger around the world. This interactive overnight program brings youth together to understand the role they can play in eradicating hunger and poverty. As the group take part in the spiritual practice of fasting during the event, they will explore questions of faith, hunger, hope and justice together.

Download or order from [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://resources.ELCA.org/hunger/) under the "Hunger Ed" tab.



## Hang a poster

Hang a poster that tells the story of someone affected by your congregation's generous gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Display these on a bulletin board or in a prominent spot to show your support of our neighbors through our ministries.

Order posters for free at [resources.ELCA.org](https://resources.ELCA.org).

## Housing guide

The United States faces a housing crisis sure to have long-term and far-reaching effects. But congregations have the power to curb the effects of this crisis in their communities. The new housing guide from ELCA World Hunger and the ELCA's advocacy team in Washington, D.C., provides information and tools critical to accompanying neighbors who face housing insecurity.

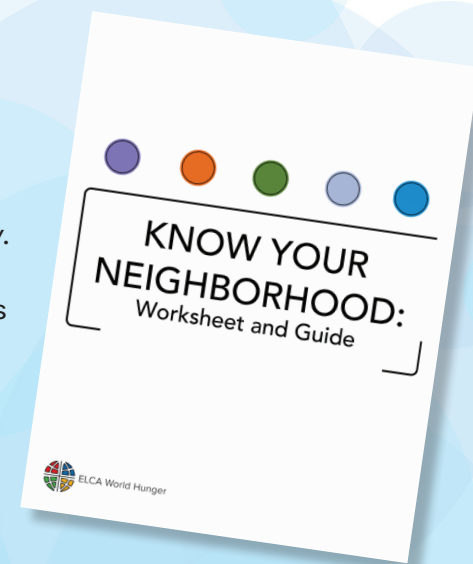
This guide is perfect for advocates and would-be advocates, congregations interested in developing housing ministries, and seasoned leaders looking for the next step in their ministry.

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



## "Know Your Neighborhood" worksheet and guide

This updated guide explains how to find data on housing, employment and food access, all of which impact food security. Statistics and other data can help communicate the impact of your ministry, encourage supporters and identify possible areas for growth or change. They can illuminate the challenges our neighbors face and the assets available in a community.



Download or order from [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://resources.ELCA.org/hunger/resources) under the "Hunger Ed" tab.



Find your synod's map of median income!

## Hunger catechisms

This series for confirmation students and youth groups offers them an opportunity to deepen their understanding of what it means to be Lutheran. Participants will connect Luther's Small Catechism to pressing issues today – from wage theft to climate change. When you read and discuss these lessons, think about the gifts you bring to the table and how you can use them to create a community where all are fed.



Download printer-friendly copies of the lessons at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://resources.ELCA.org/hunger/resources) under the "Hunger Ed" tab.

### 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 from ELCA World Hunger's "Community Gardens How-To Guide." Its wisdom was harvested from ELCA congregations whose community gardens have become vital parts of their ministry. The guide offers 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](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) under the "Hunger Ed" tab.



### "End Hunger Sundays"

Show your congregation's commitment to ending hunger and poverty by dedicating an "End Hunger Sunday" once a month, once a quarter or every month with a fifth Sunday. During worship on these Sundays, offer prayers for those in need, collect a special offering with ELCA World Hunger envelopes, and share stories of your gifts at work by showing ELCA World Hunger videos or using ELCA World Hunger stories in your bulletins.

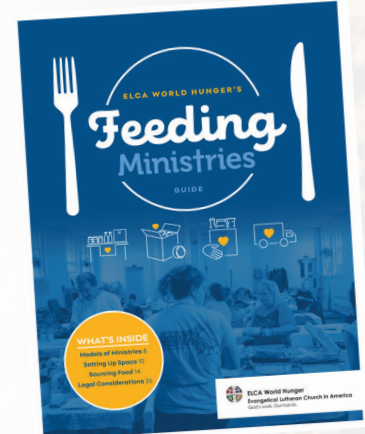
#### Subscribe to "ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starter" emails

The weekly email series "ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starter" contains reflections on the upcoming Sunday's lectionary Scripture readings, aimed to inspire themes of hunger, poverty, justice and hope in your congregation's sermons and educational activities.

To receive "Sermon Starter" emails or liturgies from ELCA World Hunger, email [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).

#### OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- Take a special offering for ELCA World Hunger to address root causes of hunger in more than 60 countries including the United States.
- Find ELCA World Hunger resources at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) to educate or activate your congregation.
- Learn how your congregation can get involved in ELCA advocacy initiatives at [ELCA.org/advocacy](https://elca.org/advocacy).
- Plan an intergenerational activity! Using the tool kits available at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources), create unique learning experiences for people of all ages in your congregation.



### Start or grow a feeding ministry

Passionate about addressing hunger in your community and eager to start a feeding ministry? This guide offers tips and strategies for planning, sourcing food, engaging volunteers and much more. Part of an existing feeding ministry? The guide provides ideas for growing, expanding or reimagining the work you're already doing.

Order our free how-to guide at [resources.ELCA.org](https://resources.ELCA.org).



### "Climate and Hunger Toolkit"

This updated resource from ELCA World Hunger features a variety of activities to teach your group how our changing climate impacts hunger. With handouts, easy-to-use instructions, and opening and closing sections, "Climate and Hunger Toolkit" is perfect for groups of any size.

Download it for free at [elca.org/hunger/resources#Toolkits](https://elca.org/hunger/resources#Toolkits).


#### Special dates to consider:

 **World Food Day**  
— Monday, Oct. 16


Join ELCA World Hunger and people around the world in raising awareness and taking action toward food security for all. With hunger rising around the world after a decade of steady decline, these efforts are more important than ever.

 **World AIDS Day**  
— Friday, Dec. 1

Donate, advocate and pray to fight HIV/AIDS, support those who live with HIV/AIDS and mourn those who have died. [ELCA.org/HIV](https://elca.org/HIV) offers resources for worship and the ELCA's first social message, "AIDS and the Church's Ministry of Caring" (1988), as relevant today as when it was first adopted.

 **World Water Day**  
— Friday, March 22, 2024

Learn, donate, advocate and pray to ensure access to clean water for all.

 **World Refugee Day**  
— Thursday, June 20, 2024

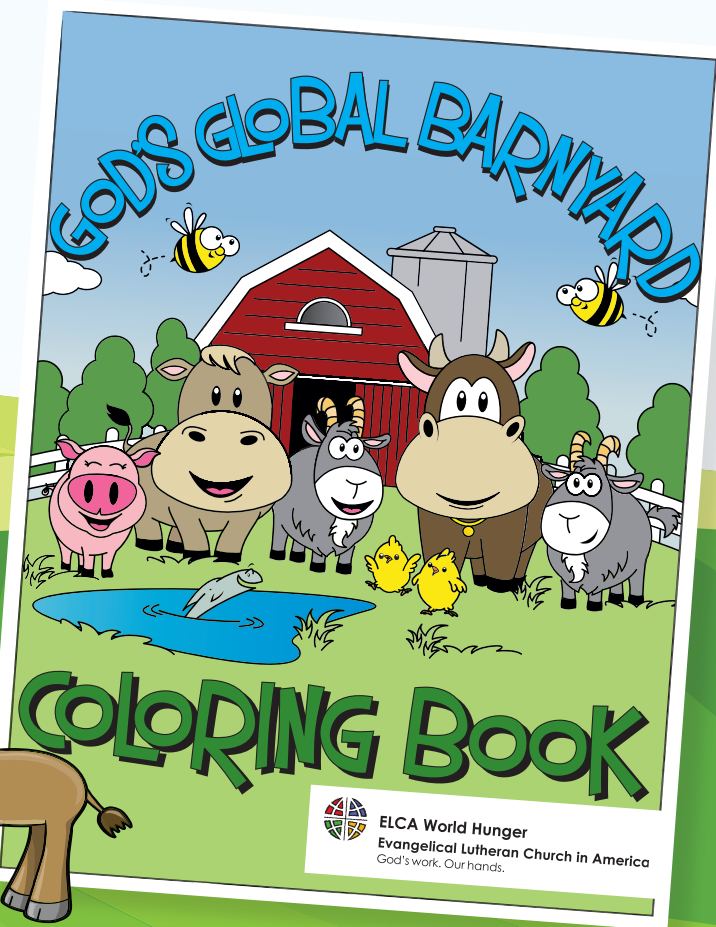
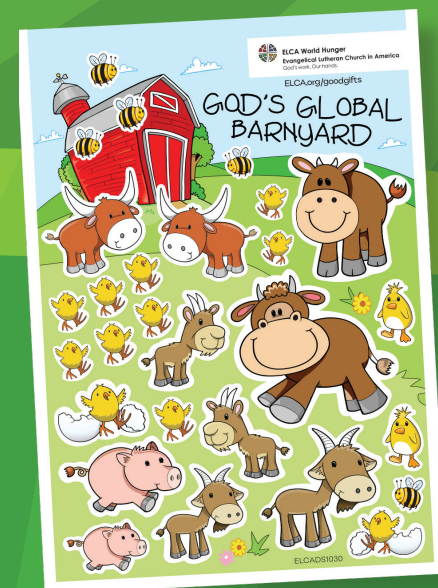
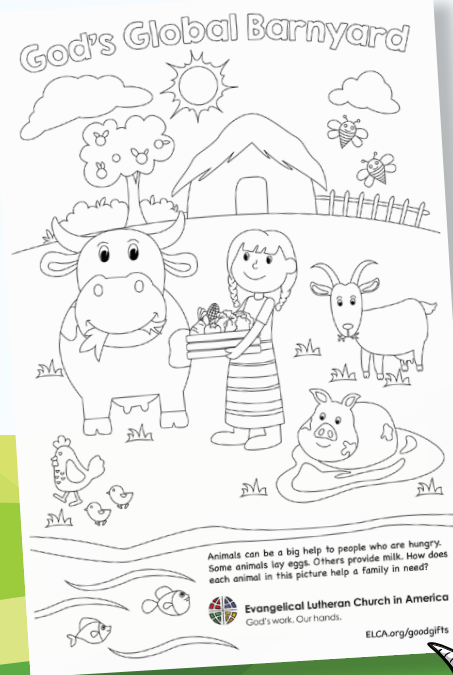
Learn how displacement intensifies hunger, and take action by donating and speaking out for justice.



## Order these fun resources and activities to teach children in your congregation about God's global barnyard:

Distribute these coloring sheets to children during Sunday school, or during worship as bulletin inserts. The back side of the coloring sheet provides pictures and information about each animal.

Order this coloring book for Sunday school or send it to families for fun at home. As children color the eight animals, teach them the significance of livestock in communities around the world. Pair these activities with an ELCA Good Gifts fundraiser to support ELCA World Hunger's animal projects.



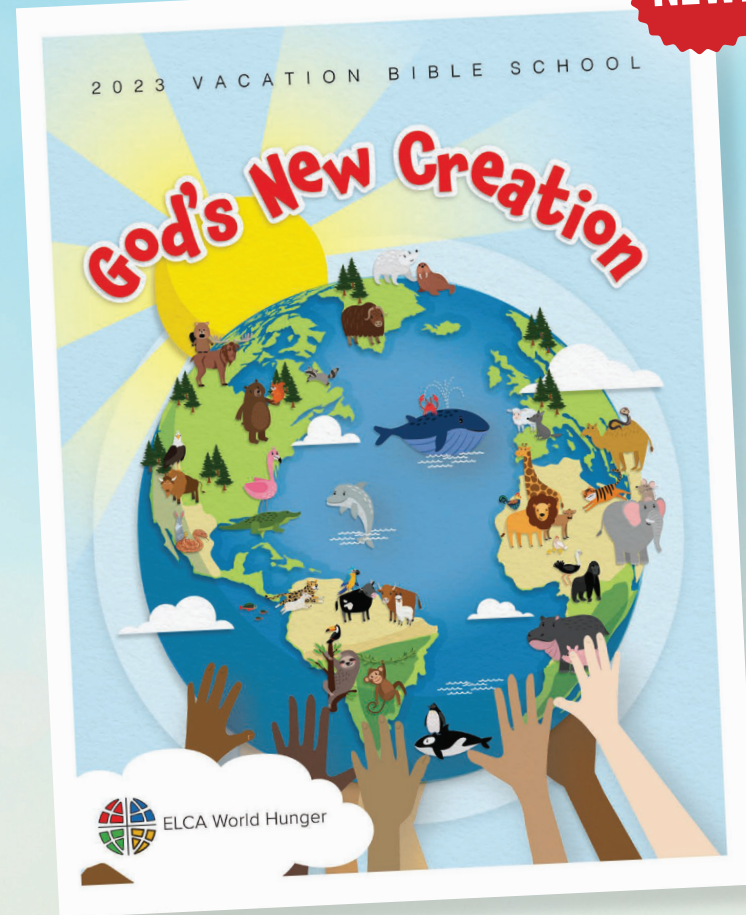
Share a pig, cow, chicken or other barnyard friend during a children's sermon or Sunday school class, teaching children about the difference an animal makes to a family in need.

Order free coin boxes, coloring books and sticker sheets at [resources.ELCA.org](https://resources.ELCA.org).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**NEW!**

### "God's New Creation" VBS



Welcome to "God's New Creation," ELCA World Hunger's newest Vacation Bible School program! Its learning sessions and activities highlight an important part of our work: animals! By helping farmers access animals and learn new ways to care for them, we can take effective, sustainable steps toward ending hunger. Each day of "God's New Creation" offers large- and small-group activities, crafts, games, snacks and more. These are all adaptable, so you can adjust the program to meet your needs.

Download supplemental materials including music, graphics and story pictures, and order or download the leader guide, at [elca.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) under the "VBS" tab.

### More ELCA World Hunger VBS Programs!

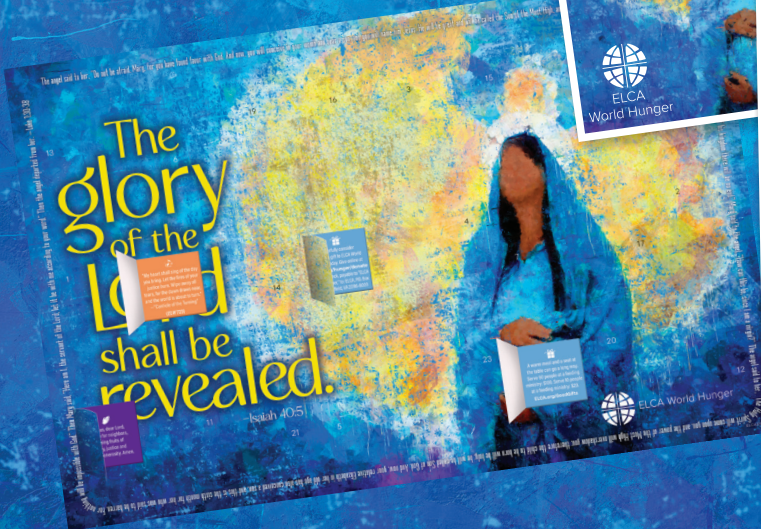
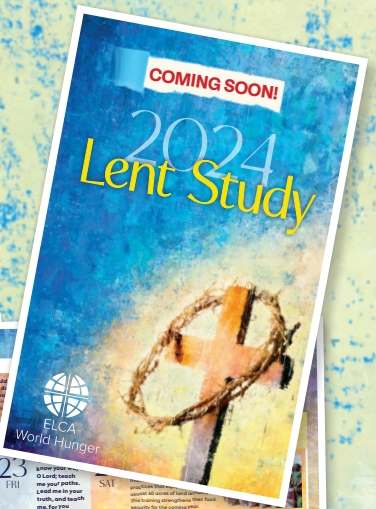




# NEW SEASONAL RESOURCES!

The  
glory  
of the  
Lord  
shall be  
revealed.

As we wait and watch during Advent and as we journey and seek in Lent, join ELCA World Hunger as we discern the ways we encounter the living God today. Through reflection on the stories of our biblical past and the stories of ministries responding to hunger and poverty today, we will explore together the many ways "the glory of the Lord" is revealed in communities that have come together to confront deep challenges with strength, hope and longing for a just world where all are fed.



ELCA World Hunger