

ACTION GUIDE

for CONGREGATIONS



Join
ELCA World Hunger
this Lent!

Photo: Community Table ToGo,
Bethlehem Lutheran Church - New Orleans



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

ELCA World Hunger's
40 DAYS
of Giving

HOW TO

USE THIS GUIDE



As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are called to be part of God's work in the world. Through ELCA World Hunger, our church creatively and courageously works toward a just world where all are fed.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, these vital hunger ministries have been especially needed. Whether you are meeting online or in person, this guide is designed to equip you with some of the newest and most popular resources to activate your congregation as we continue the work to end hunger and poverty.

With the Holy Spirit and each other, we are achieving things on a scale and scope we could never do otherwise. Thank you!

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

 Twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger

 Instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger

TELL US

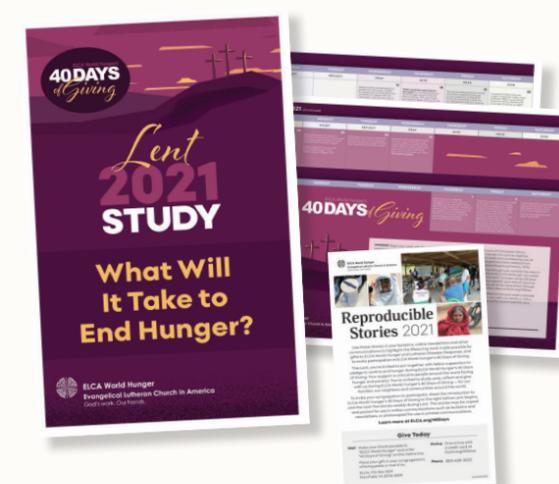
Was your activity a success? We'd love to learn about it! Send photos and stories to hunger@elca.org.

In the last year,

as the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people around the world rise, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests, and longed together in hope for the time "when [we] will hunger no more, and thirst no more ... and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes" (Revelation 7:16).

This Lent, you're invited to join fellow supporters in pledging to end hunger together during ELCA World Hunger's **40 Days of Giving**. Your generosity is critical to support people around the world facing hunger and poverty.

Bring ELCA World Hunger into the life of your congregation and family with resources that are available to use at home, online or in person. These include:



- 1) A **devotional calendar** with daily ideas for reflection, giving and action;
- 2) A **weekly study** inviting you and your congregation into deeper reflection on faith and justice, with inspirational stories about how your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are at work in the world; and
- 3) Additional resources, including an **inspirational weekly email series**.

We invite you to study, pray, be challenged and give with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.

Visit [ELCA.org/40Days](https://elca.org/40Days) for more information, to order resources and sign up for emails, and to begin planning your congregation's participation and fundraising.

- 40 Days of Giving 3
- Lenten Resources 4
- Children and Youth 6
- New and Popular Resources 8



The 40 Days of Giving begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021.

LENTEN LITANY

Isaiah 58

God of justice, God of life, in this season of Lent, we remember the work that you call us to do:

"Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (58:6).

Recall us to your promise and make us people of memory:

As we long for clean, safe water, remind your church that you call us to protect access to the natural resources on which life depends.

"Is this not the fast I choose?"

As violence threatens the most vulnerable among us, remind your church that you call us to work for the safety and security of all our neighbors.

"Is this not the fast I choose?"

As injustice leaves its mark on our communities, remind your church that you call us to strive for justice in all the earth.

"Is this not the fast I choose?"

As we face the reality of a hungry world in which some have plenty and many have too little, remind your church that you call us to ensure all are fed.

"Is this not the fast I choose?"

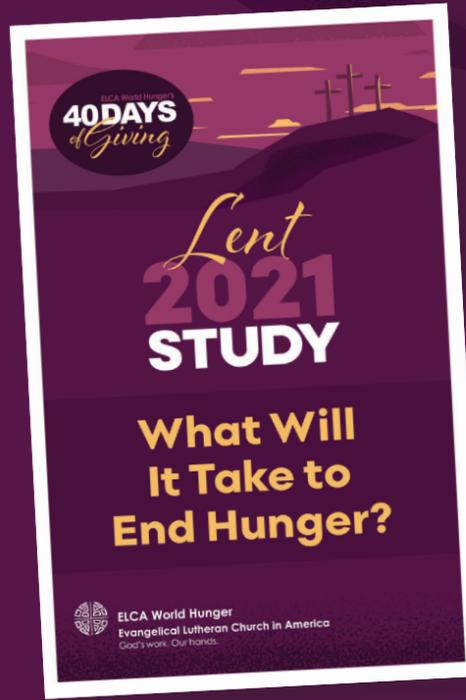
God of justice, God of life, inspire us and incite us with your call and your promise:

"Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice ... Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (58:6-7).

"Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard" (58:8).



New! Find brief videos online to enhance your weekly study.

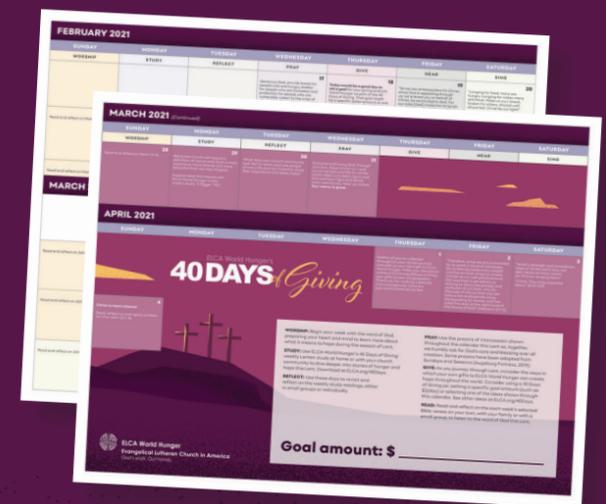


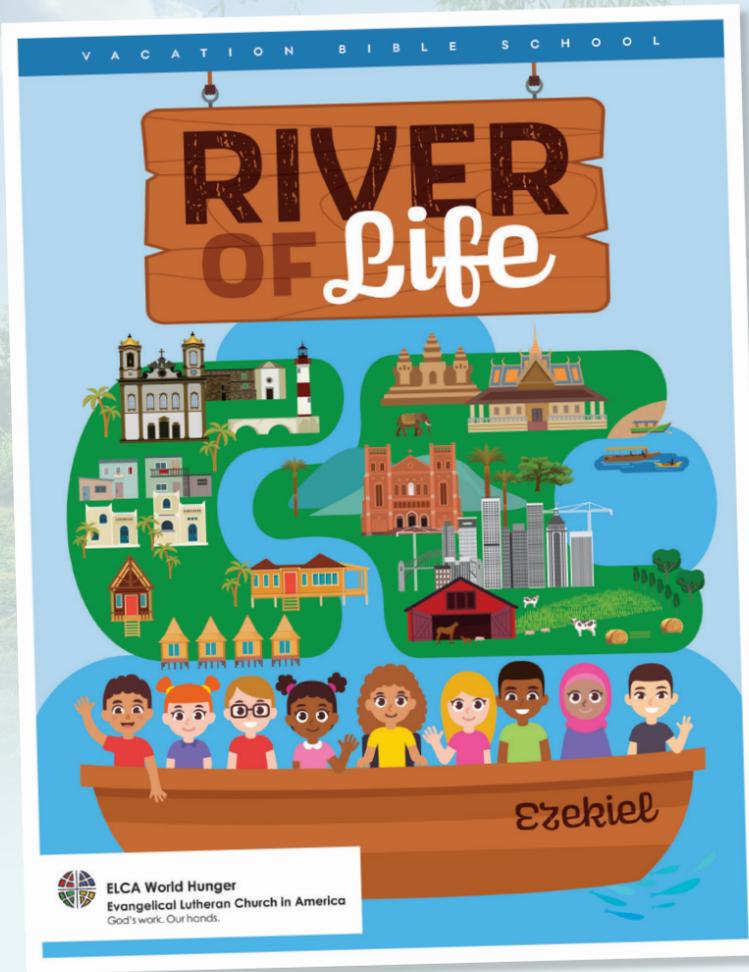
LENTEN STUDY GUIDE

This five-session resource is perfect for congregations, small groups or at-home study. Each session draws on the Scripture readings for Lent and a story of hope from a ministry supported by ELCA World Hunger, writings to challenge us and inspire prayerful thought about what it means to be church for the sake of the world.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR

Order your Lenten devotional calendar, which is filled with ideas for daily engagement in cultivating hope and working for a just world where all are fed. ELCA.org/40Days.

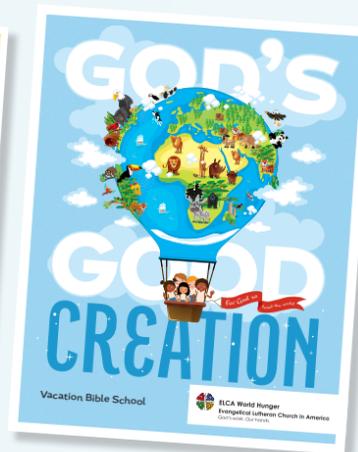
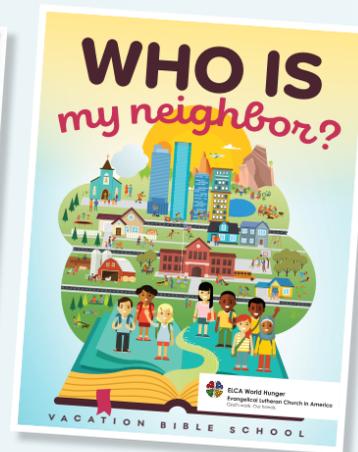




"RIVER OF LIFE" VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

New program for 2021!

"River of Life" is a vacation Bible school program that guides children through learning about the work to which God calls us in the world. This year's VBS will focus on the importance of water, highlighting how ELCA World Hunger is working with our neighbors around the world in projects related to clean water. This five-day program includes large-group gatherings, small-group activities, games, crafts and ideas for snacks.



Also available!

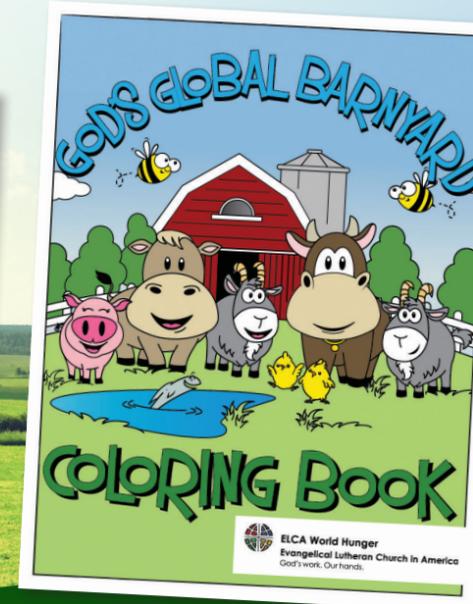
Visit Resources.ELCA.org to order free printed copies. Download the full programs and find supplemental resources at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "VBS" tab.

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, or milk, honey or eggs to sell at the market. Use the following ideas and resources about animals to educate people about "God's Global Barnyard" and raise money through ELCA Good Gifts. Children can have fun playing with the animal images and learning about each animal.



GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD STICKERS



GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD COLORING BOOK



GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD COLORING BULLETIN INSERT

COIN BOXES



These resources can also be used at home to enrich children's learning time, even if your congregation is not meeting in person!

Visit ELCA.org/GoodGifts to order free coin boxes, coloring books and sticker sheets. Many items can also be downloaded and printed at home.

EDUCATE, ENGAGE, INSPIRE

Visit ELCA World Hunger's Vimeo channel to find a series of short videos you can share with your congregation during worship, temple talks, youth lessons, Bible studies and more. Video links can also be shared in email blasts and digital bulletins.

Choose from a variety of videos designed to connect your congregation to people and communities whose lives are changed through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger in the United States and in more than 60 countries around the world.



"Church Together – Apart: Our Response to COVID: Ohio"



"Church Together – Apart: Our Response to COVID: Washington"



"Church Together – Apart: Our Response to COVID: New York"



"Supporting Strong Babies in Milwaukee"



"Education Opens Doors for Young Women in Guatemala"



"Until All Are Fed"

Check out all of ELCA World Hunger's videos at [Vimeo.com/channels/ELCAWorldHunger](https://vimeo.com/channels/ELCAWorldHunger) or on the ELCA World Hunger playlist on YouTube.



ELCA WORLD HUNGER BULLETIN INSERT

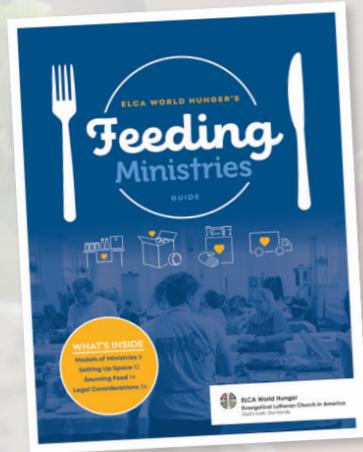
Include this ELCA World Hunger insert on your website or in your worship bulletin, or use it as a brochure. Learn more about how your gifts are making an impact and get an overview of our church's response to hunger and poverty.

Visit Resources.ELCA.org to order or download free bulletin inserts and posters today.



HANG A POSTER

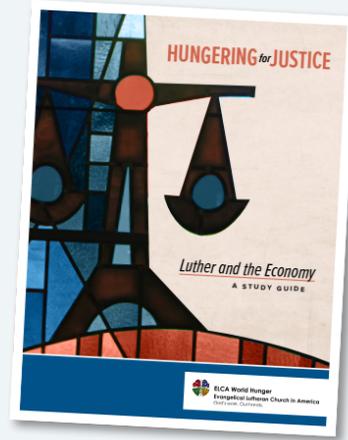
Consider using our posters to show your congregation's support for ELCA World Hunger, and use them with your Sunday school and youth groups.



START OR GROW A FEEDING MINISTRY

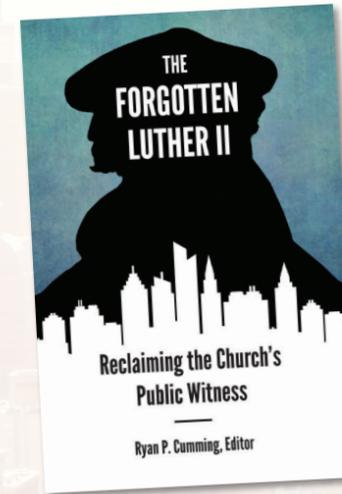
If you are passionate about addressing hunger in your community and want to start a feeding ministry, this guide will provide tips and strategies for planning, sourcing food, engaging volunteers and more. If you are part of an existing feeding ministry, you'll find ideas for growing, expanding or reimagining the work you're already doing.

"HUNGERING FOR JUSTICE" STUDY GUIDE



The five-week educational series "Hungering for Justice" uncovers how our Lutheran faith shapes our perspective and role in the economy. Each week's lesson looks at one key aspect of the economy and explores questions related to economic justice.

THE FORGOTTEN LUTHER II



When should the church support the state's agenda? When should it resist? What are the options for critical but constructive cooperation? In the essay anthology *The Forgotten Luther II: Reclaiming the Church's Public Witness*, Lutheran scholars argue for a cogent, clear, biblically based and theologically grounded rationale for how the church speaks and acts in the political arena. This book looks carefully at the public witness of Martin Luther and its meaning for preaching, teaching and carrying out public ministry today. Luther's conviction was that government is responsible to God for containing evil and maintaining good order, and for ensuring that no person lives in hunger or want.

The Forgotten Luther II comes with discussion questions to guide reflection, and video interviews with the authors are available online.

Purchase the book for \$16.99 from Fortress Press at fortresspress.com/forgottenlutherii.

A portion of the proceeds will support the ongoing work of ELCA Advocacy through ELCA World Hunger.

Download these guides for free at 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." This guide is filled with wisdom harvested by ELCA congregations whose community gardens have become vital parts of their ministries. You'll find practical tips on logistics, crafting a vision and incorporating your garden into the life of your community.



Also available in Spanish!

GET INSPIRED!

In Lincoln, Neb., First Lutheran Church's Fellowship Committee sponsored an Advent Drive-through.

More than 70 families and individuals drove past stations in the church parking lot where they received Advent calendars, a storybook and a take-home bag of the congregation's tasty Sunday-morning donut holes. Passengers dropped off **2,666 cans of food** for the Lutheran Food Pantry, qualifying for a challenge donation from the Thrivent 500 Can Drive. A parking lot variation of the Noisy Offering that brings joy when we're in worship together provided **more than \$700** to "Band of the Strong," an innovative local outreach to youth who are experiencing grief.

GET READY FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

On 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 to ELCA World Hunger. Special coloring sheets are also available for kids of all ages!



Visit Resources.ELCA.org to order your Valentine's Day ELCA Good Gifts—grams today. Coloring sheets are available for download at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the "General" tab.



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