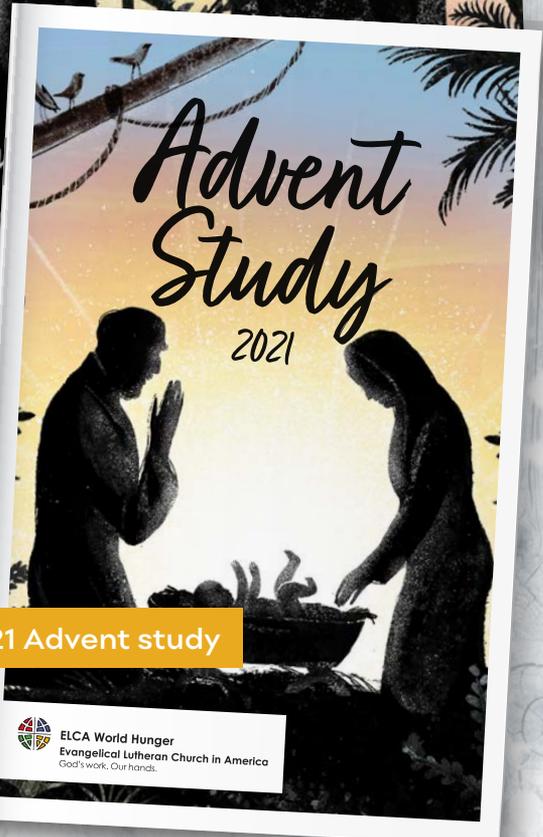


# ACTION GUIDE for CONGREGATIONS



2021 Advent calendar



2021 Advent study



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

# HOW TO

# USE THIS GUIDE



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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 is designed to equip you with the newest and most popular resources to activate your congregation as you continue that work. 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://facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger)

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

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

## TELL US

What is your congregation doing for Advent 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://facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger).

## LEAD!

Do you want to become a hunger leader within 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.

## IDEAS FOR ADVENT

# ADVENT LITANY

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

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

**By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Instill in us a yearning to seek your presence in each other.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Quicken us to help all people feel welcomed and supported.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Rouse us to care for one another, friend and stranger alike.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Inspire us to be your handiwork in the world.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

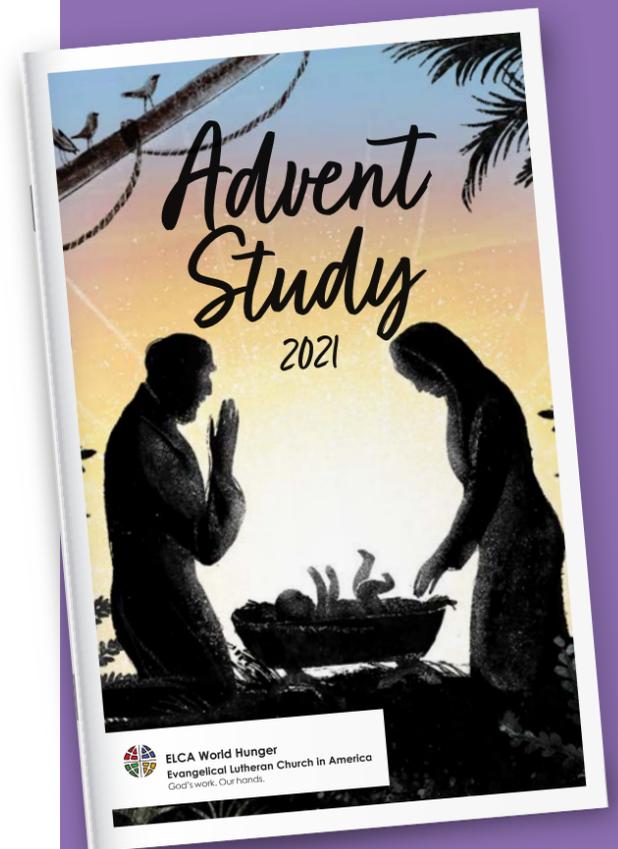
**Fill us with a holy hunger for a just world where all are fed.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**The days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your Son.

**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 2021 Advent study is full of new weekly devotions. Use this resource during weekly worship or adult study, or encourage members to read it each week during Advent.

 Download and print for free at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) under the "Seasonal" tab, or order printed copies online at [Resources.ELCA.org](https://resources.elca.org).

# ADVENT CALENDAR

Celebrate the excitement, anticipation and wonder of Christ's birth with the 2021 ELCA World Hunger Advent calendar. Each day is a reminder of the Christ child for whom we wait and work, with hymns, prayers, Bible verses and information about how ELCA Good Gifts make a difference in the world.



Visit [Resources.ELCA.org](https://Resources.ELCA.org) to order free calendars to distribute to families in your congregation. Each pack contains 10 calendars, and we recommend one calendar per household.

*"Gifts of Hope (our congregation's Good Gifts fundraiser) was truly a gift of hope to me this year. In the midst of a world filled with jangle, glitz and "bargains," a faith-filled group decided to select unique gifts that offer improved health, safety, food, education and income for those most in need. That feels like Christmas to me."*  
 —Barb Johnson Frank, First Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb.

# ADVENT TREE

Whether your tree is in your church's gathering space or at home, ornaments serve as a reminder of your giving. Decorate a tree with ornaments that represent ELCA Good Gifts as well as your congregation's fundraising goal. Invite members to select an ornament representing their gift and take it home as a reminder of their giving. If you have multiple entrances or gathering spaces, consider using several trees. Keep the tree full of ornaments to encourage participation and to celebrate the work we're doing as a church!

Visit [Resources.ELCA.org](https://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!



# ELCA GOOD GIFTS

On average, Americans spend more than \$900 on Christmas gifts each year. Yet when we think about the best gifts we've ever given or received, often what makes them significant is not the gift itself but the meaning behind it. Rethink traditional gift-giving this Christmas with ELCA Good Gifts. Give a loved one the chance to touch someone 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 are a fun, interactive way to support ELCA World Hunger. Announce to your congregation 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 ELCA GOOD GIFTS!



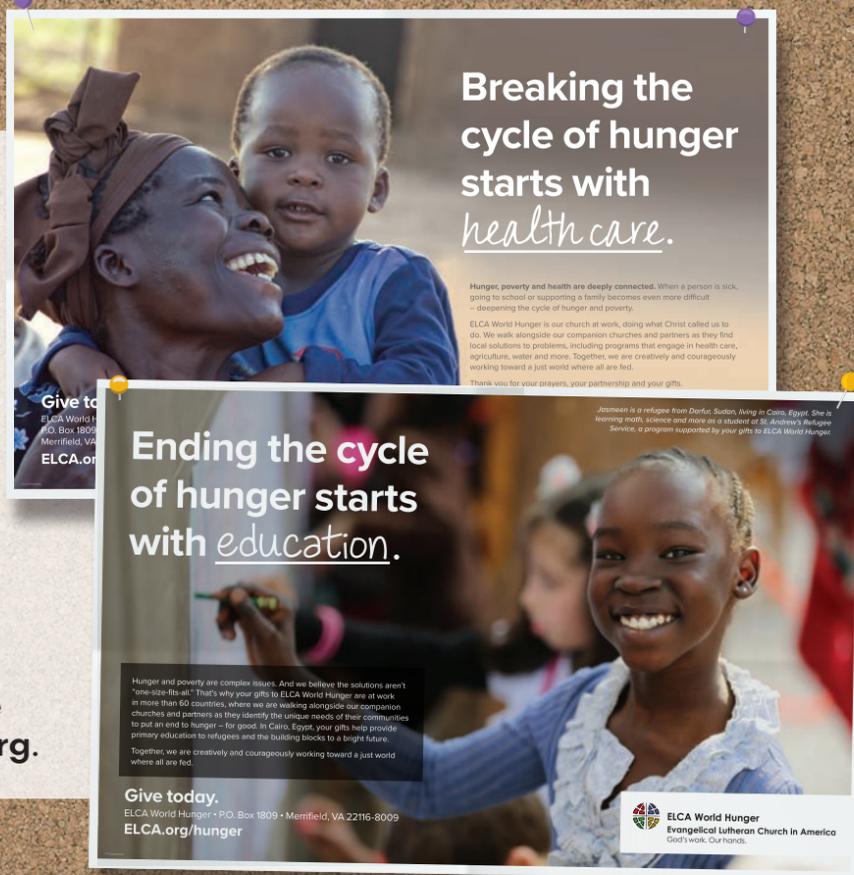
Send a card

When 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](https://ELCA.org/GoodGifts) to give online and personalize free, printed cards to be sent directly to your loved ones. You may also opt to send the cards to yourself, print them at home or have them delivered via email.

## 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 for our ministries.

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

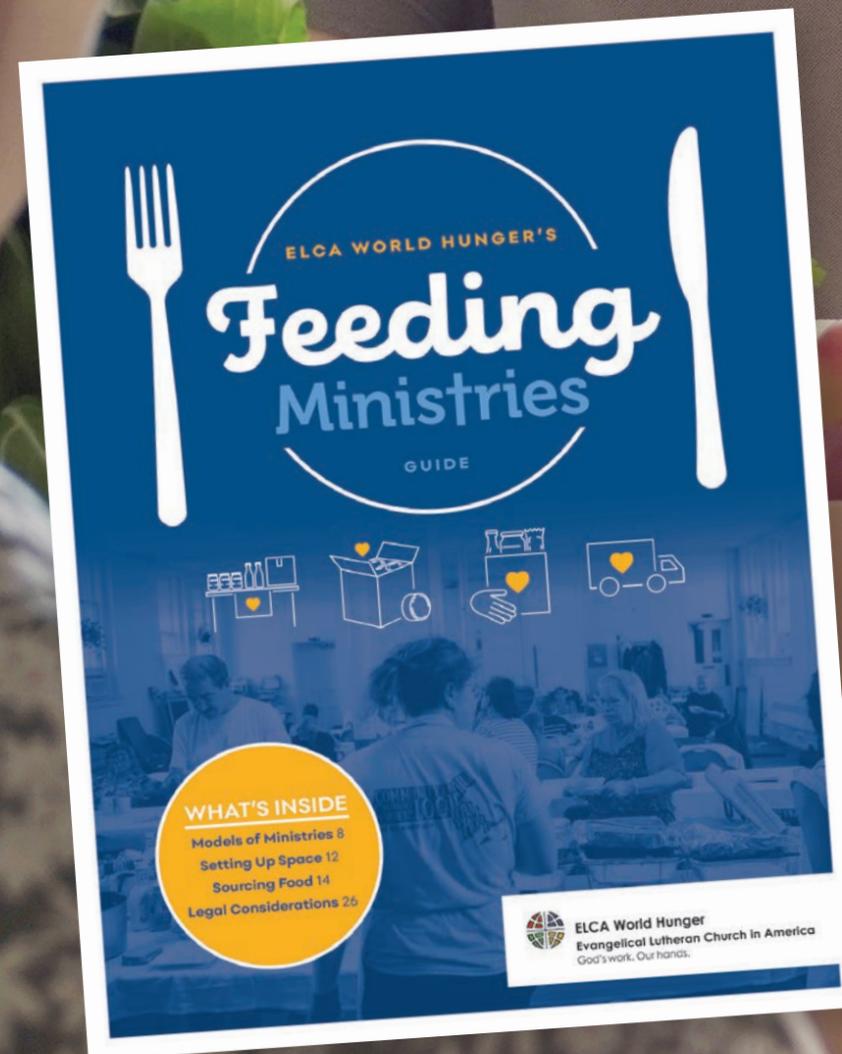


## Mark your calendars — plan for Lent 2022!

# ELCA World Hunger's 40 DAYS of Giving

ELCA World Hunger's "40 Days of Giving" will continue next year. Join thousands of ELCA members and congregations during Lent as they support the life-changing work of ELCA World Hunger through worship, gift and prayer. Follow ELCA World Hunger's social media for more information and new resources coming soon!

Questions? Email us at [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).



## 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 much more. If you are part of an existing feeding ministry, you will find ideas for growing, expanding or reimagining the work you are already doing.

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

# 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." 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. Also available in Spanish!



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

# CLIMATE AND HUNGER TOOLKIT



In this updated resource from ELCA World Hunger, you will find a variety of activities to help your group learn more about how our changing climate impacts hunger. With easy-to-use instructions, handouts, and opening and closing sections, "Climate and Hunger Toolkit" is perfect for groups of any size. The tool kit includes low-impact activities as well as activities for a high-energy event.



Download the toolkit for free at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](http://ELCA.org/hunger/resources) under the "Toolkit" tab.

# "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. 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 videos or using reproducible stories in your bulletins. To receive Sermon Starter emails or liturgies from ELCA World Hunger, email [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY

June 20



Take time on World Refugee Day to learn as a community about the impact of displacement on hunger, and take action by donating and by speaking out for justice.



## WORLD FOOD DAY

Oct. 16

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.

### PLAN AN INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY!

Use the toolkits available at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](http://ELCA.org/hunger/resources) to create unique learning experiences for people of all ages in your congregation.

### OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

**Take** a special offering for ELCA World Hunger and help fight hunger in more than 60 countries, including the United States.

**Find** ELCA World Hunger resources at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](http://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](http://ELCA.org/advocacy).



## WORLD WATER DAY

March 22

Commemorate World Water Day by learning, donating and praying to ensure access to clean water for all.



## WORLD AIDS DAY Dec. 1

Donate, advocate, learn and pray on World AIDS Day, an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in fighting HIV/AIDS, supporting those who live with HIV/AIDS and mourning those who have died. Learn more at [ELCA.org/HIV](http://ELCA.org/HIV), where you will find resources for worship and "AIDS and the Church's Ministry of Caring," the first social message of the newly formed ELCA, which is as relevant today as when it was first adopted in 1988.

# EDUCATE, ENGAGE, INSPIRE

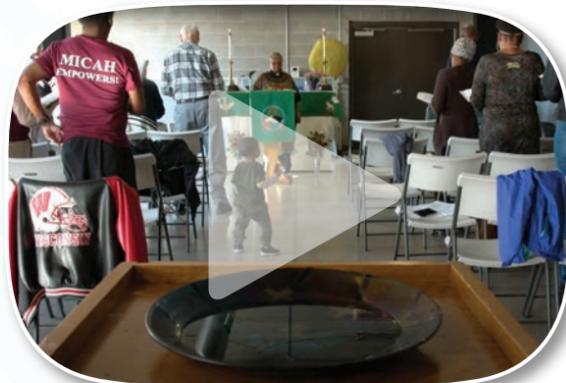
Visit ELCA World Hunger's Vimeo channel to find short videos you can share with your congregation during worship, temple talks, youth lessons and Bible studies. Choose from a variety of videos designed to connect your congregation to people and communities in the United States and in 60 countries around the world whose lives have been changed through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.



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 at [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC8888888888888888).



Rick Steves: Why Support ELCA World Hunger



Supporting Strong Babies in Milwaukee



East Boston Community Soup Kitchen



The Seeds of Change in Malawi



Until All Are Fed



Rebecca's Story

## THE FORGOTTEN LUTHER III: RECLAIMING A VISION OF GLOBAL COMMUNITY



### The Forgotten Luther III: Reclaiming a Vision of Global Community

invites congregations to consider the new shape of global mission in today's world, with essays by leading scholars, advocates and ministry leaders from around the world. This third book in the "Forgotten Luther" series examines the global implications of Luther's reforms and the theology that shaped them. The essays are informed by ways churches in the global community address the systemic causes of hunger, poverty and injustice, and they invite congregations and study groups to consider where God is calling us to be at this critical time in history.

The book is available for sale from **Fortress Press and Amazon**. A portion of the proceeds from its sales will support ELCA's global mission work.

## A NEW RESOURCE ON HOUSING

We face a housing crisis in the United States that may have long-term and far-reaching effects. But it doesn't have to be this way. Churches and communities can make a huge difference. In this new resource from ELCA World Hunger and the ELCA's advocacy office in Washington, D.C., you'll find the information and tools critical to accompanying neighbors who face housing insecurity, including:

- Faith reflections on housing.
- Common myths about homelessness.
- Tips and strategies your congregation can use to be part of the solution to the housing crisis.

The 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. Follow ELCA World Hunger on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates, or subscribe to the ELCA World Hunger blog ([Blogs.ELCA.org/WorldHunger](https://blogs.elca.org/worldhunger)) to get notified when it's available.



# "GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD"

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. It provides food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and 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 looking at the animal images and learning about each of them.

## COIN BOXES

Encourage your congregation to support ELCA Good Gifts by taking these coin boxes home to collect change throughout Advent. Invite members to use the money they collect to purchase ELCA Good Gifts, either on their own or through your congregation.

This **God's Global Barnyard** interactive box shows how different animals can help a family in need.

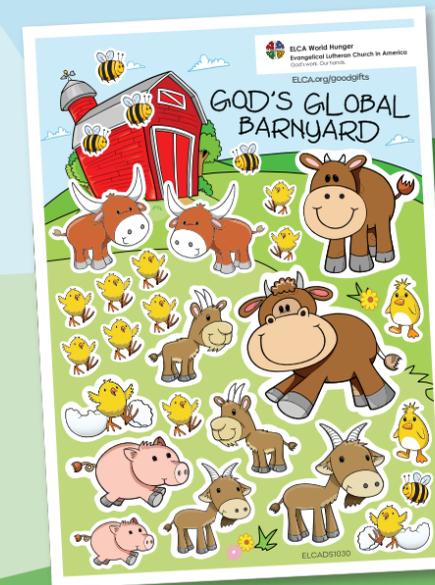
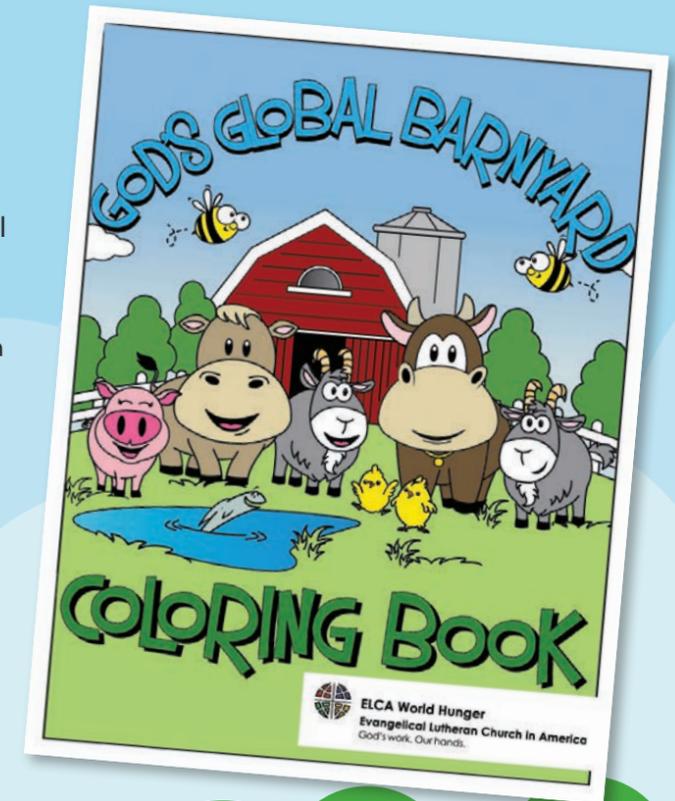


Saving in this piggy bank is easy!

**Just \$30** provides a family with a piglet that grows up, gives birth to other piglets, and provides both fertilizer for fields and food to eat or sell at the market.

## 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.

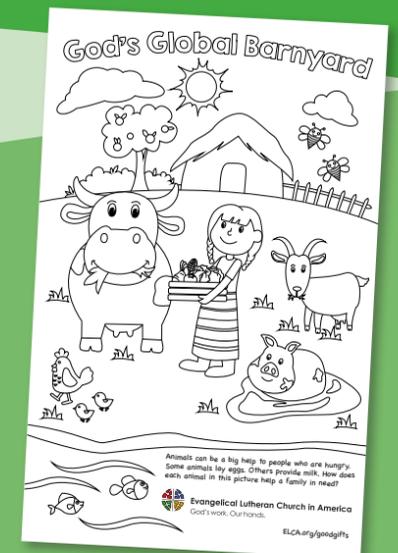


## STICKERS

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.

## COLORING BULLETIN INSERT

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



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

# ACT 2DAY 4 TOMORROW

Spend your next lock-in or Sunday school series learning together about the root causes of hunger around the world. This interactive overnight program brings youth together to learn about the role they can play in eradicating hunger and poverty. As the group takes 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](http://ELCA.org/hunger/resources) under the "Hunger Ed" tab.



BRAND NEW!



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

## "TREE OF HEALING" VBS

Come learn about health at the "Tree of Healing," ELCA World Hunger's vacation Bible school program for 2022! Through skits, stories and activities, participants will learn what it means to be healthy in body, mind and spirit. This program includes sessions on grief, mental wellness and environmental health. The leader's guide will offer suggestions for in-person and online activities for children of all ages, including new videos for 2022! We hope to see you at the "Tree of Healing" next year.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS!



# ELCA GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE ORNAMENTS

1. **Order** free ornament packs at [resources.ELCA.org](http://resources.ELCA.org). One pack contains 34 assorted ornaments totaling \$1,500 in donations. Single packs of 10 pig, bee or goat ornaments are also available.
2. **Set** a fundraising goal.
3. **Choose** ornaments that will help you reach your goal.
4. **Decorate** your tree.
5. **Invite** people to select an ornament and make a donation in that amount.
6. **Encourage** people to take the ornament home as a reminder of their support of ELCA Good Gifts.



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