

50 YEARS

of ELCA World Hunger



50
years



ELCA
World Hunger



Presiding Bishop David Preus speaking from the podium at the 1974 General Convention of the American Lutheran Church, during which the ALC's World Hunger Appeal was initiated.

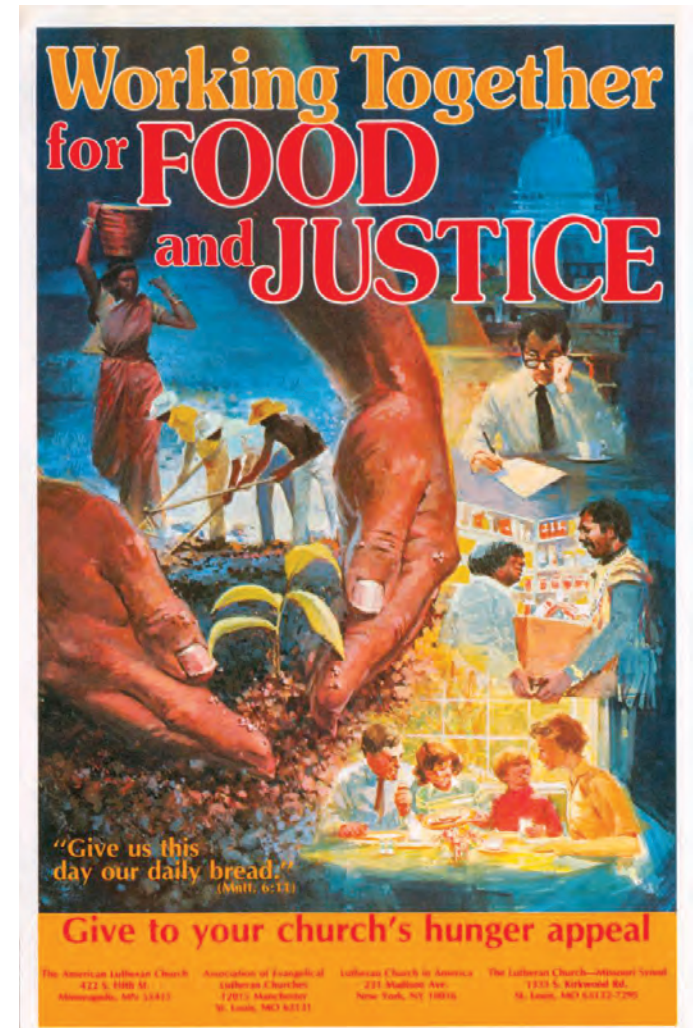
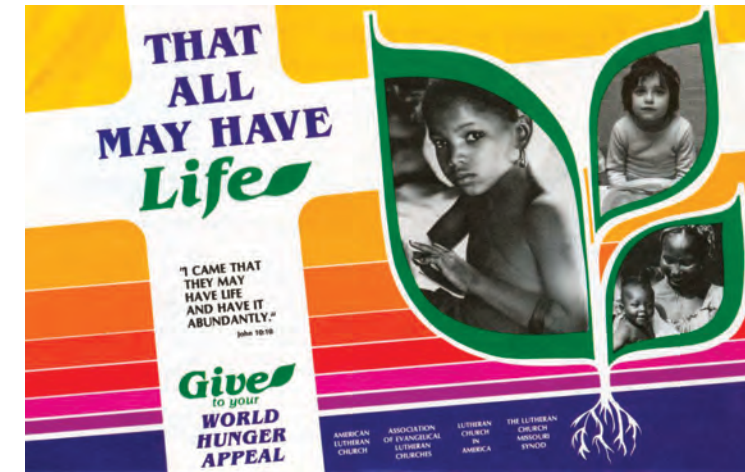
50 Fifty years of impact

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action"

—1 John 3:18

Fifty years ago the world was grappling with an astounding increase in hunger. Drought and rising costs, among other crises, were driving food insecurity for millions around the world. During this time Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger Appeals to stand with their neighbors experiencing hunger. Now a core ministry of the church, ELCA World Hunger embodies our hope in God's promise and our faith that God is revealed in the neighbors we accompany together.

Since 1974 hundreds of thousands of generous people from across this church have contributed more than \$650 million to support ELCA World Hunger. Countless more have prayed for our shared mission, led their congregations in special fundraising efforts, volunteered at local hunger ministries, or advocated to change policies and systems that perpetuate injustice. **Together we have made great strides against hunger and poverty**, providing food to meet immediate needs while equipping communities to foster long-term change through access to education and quality health care, sustainable solutions in agriculture, and advocacy for just laws that make ending hunger possible, and more.



Even as we have worked to transform the world with and for our neighbors, 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. Despite the challenges we face, the story goes on. And in faith, we know how it will end: "They will hunger no more, and thirst no more ... and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17).

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.



A critical moment in history

While we reflect on how far we've come, we know how far we have to go. Fifty years after ELCA World Hunger was founded, we find ourselves at another critical moment in history. **Amid rising costs, global conflict, the lingering impact of COVID-19, and intensifying effects of climate change, the world once again faces a startling rise in hunger that is undoing decades of progress.**

A rapidly changing climate is making it harder to grow food. Violent conflict threatens lives, land and livelihoods. And the prices of food and basic commodities continue to climb. The number of

people living in hunger worldwide is approaching heights we haven't seen in nearly 20 years – as many as 828 million in 2022. The challenges we face today threaten the progress we have made in the past – and loom over our world's future.

From our long history and deep partnerships, we have learned the most effective steps toward sustainable, long-term change. As a church, we are called to confront challenges that seem insurmountable. And as a church, we are there with our neighbors to witness their hope and their persistence in the face of such challenges.

Our approach

For 50 years, generous people of faith have enabled ELCA World Hunger to connect with local partners in 67 countries around the world, including the United States, as these partners address hunger in their communities. The global reach of these connections through our shared Lutheran faith positions us to take on such far-reaching, long-lasting partnerships. Working with local churches, we encourage efficiency and empower communities to tailor solutions to their specific challenges.

This work includes

- 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 their families and communities for the long term.
- Water and sanitation:** Water for drinking, growing crops, sanitation and hygiene is paired with ongoing health education, training and maintenance to create healthier families and stronger economies.
- Health care and disease prevention:** Clinics and community health programs provide health education and medical assistance to people in poverty and work to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and water-borne illnesses.
- Income and savings:** Microloans and income-generating activities help families start or upgrade their small businesses and pay for such essentials as food, medical treatment and school fees.
- Education and training:** Removing barriers to education – such as school fees and uniforms – can give children the chance to attend school and increase their future earning potential. Literacy training, vocational education and other such programs help teens and adults secure jobs and better opportunities for the future.

However, our commitment to fighting hunger goes beyond funding. We are a publicly engaged church, working for lasting, systemic change. Our teaching, organizing and mobilizing play critical roles in supporting and amplifying our hunger work at the grassroots level.

Through these projects and more, and with the support of many across this church, ELCA World Hunger gets at the many root causes of hunger and poverty.




Growth at the crossroads

At this moment of celebration and reflection, let us pause and consider what comes next. The challenges we face are constantly evolving; so are the ways in which we respond, and we know that our commitment to action is needed now more than ever.


Over the last 50 years, we have learned that, to secure the justice first identified in the 1974 hunger appeal, we must focus on the root causes of hunger and how they intersect. In the years ahead, with your support, ELCA World Hunger will further invest in holistic, integrated work at these intersections, because they are where we find the complex injustices giving rise to food insecurity and malnutrition. Also, by providing support for integrated projects, we can ensure that our partners can remain agile in responding to changes in their contexts, such as a disaster or sudden economic shift.

In our 50th year we are making a bold commitment to increase our support of programs around the world. To do this, we need your help. Your investment is imperative to the program's continued response and growth alongside a changing world.


Whether you are new to the program, have been involved in the past or make ELCA World Hunger part of your annual giving, there are many ways to commemorate this milestone, including:

 **Join others in increasing your support** to the program in honor of this anniversary.

 **Endow your annual gift** to sustain the program for years to come.

 **Leave a legacy** by including ELCA World Hunger in your will, trust or beneficiary designation.

 **Become a Monthly Partner** by setting up recurring gifts to the program.

 **Encourage others** by leading a special moment of celebration and support in your congregation.

Will you join us as we commit to the next 50 years of ministry together?



Making your gift

Your gifts provide vital support to ELCA World Hunger programs. These ministries would not exist without your support. Current gifts are needed today, including monetary gifts (cash, check, credit cards), securities or real estate. You may also make a multiyear pledge of up to five years to increase the impact of your giving.

Your commitment to support ELCA World Hunger through unused retirement funds or other assets could be a substantial legacy to extend the impact of your generosity for years to come. It is easy to do, and we are happy to help. You can learn more about how to provide for your loved ones and support the ministries you care about the most by contacting the ELCA Foundation at giftplanning@elca.org or 773-380-2774.

The **ELCA World Hunger Endowment** ensures that our church can respond to hunger and poverty for years to come. Your commitment to the ELCA World Hunger Endowment, through unused assets in your estate plan or current gifts, stabilizes vital programs regardless of their support from other areas. These gifts can perpetuate your impact, provide a permanent source of support for the mission and create a lasting legacy.

Your investment is imperative to the program's continued response and growth alongside a changing world.

Give online

[ELCA.org/hunger/donate](https://elca.org/hunger/donate)

Give by phone

800-638-3522

Give by mail

Make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" and mail to:

ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Leave your legacy

Visit Foundation.ELCA.org/contact to find your regional gift planner, or contact us at giftplanning@elca.org to get started today.

See your support at work!

Visit ELCA.org/WH50 to read stories, watch videos, download resources and participate in special opportunities highlighting the impact of 50 years of ministry.

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger embodies our commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. We have made great strides, but work remains as we once again face a startling increase in hunger. **As we reflect on the last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever.**



50
years



8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101
773-380-2700 or 800-638-3522

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