2023 Year in Review
“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”
-1 John 3:18

Fifty years ago hunger was rising at an alarming rate around the world, driven by drought, rising costs and other crises. Lutherans in the United States responded by launching the World Hunger Appeals. They were our church’s way of standing alongside our millions of siblings in Christ who were experiencing food insecurity around the world. **Half a century later you are still standing alongside them through your generosity.** Across decades you have answered God’s call to love our neighbors in deed and truth.

ELCA World Hunger has become a core ministry of our church, working to address the root causes of poverty in **66 countries** around the world. That’s because of you. Whether you’ve supported ELCA World Hunger through generous donations, prayers for our shared mission, fundraisers, volunteer hours or advocacy efforts, you are part of the transformative story of this ministry.

This 50th-anniversary edition of “LifeLines” recognizes the long legacy of ELCA World Hunger. It also celebrates the ways your generosity is at work right now. **In 2023 combined support for ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response approached $34 million. Thank you!**

The stories in this newsletter come from communities our church has accompanied for many years and, in some cases, generations. Through your generosity you are continuing the journey alongside them — improving health and nutrition in Chile, fostering the growth of young adults in Ohio, strengthening community for people with disabilities in the Holy Land, rebuilding homes after disaster in Maryland and more. The future is growing stronger because of you.

Thank you for being part of ELCA World Hunger’s first 50 years. Because of you, I look forward in hope to our next half century together, as we boldly pursue God’s promise of a just world where all are fed.

With thanks for your ministry and partnership,
We all have a role to play in ending hunger, just as generations of Lutherans have done before us.

Do you believe that hunger has no place in our world?

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. Join ELCA World Hunger at the gathering and commit to being part of Generation Zero-Hunger, taking action to usher in a world without hunger and futures filled with hope.

Learn more at ELCA.org/GenZeroHunger
A few years ago, in September 2019, a house behind a community center in the El Bosque subdivision of Santiago, Chile, was consumed by a deadly fire. The frame of the gutted house still stands, a stark reminder of the neglect suffered by this low-income area.

But today new life is springing up among the ruins. On a strip of patio extending alongside the premises, peas, carrots, celery, lettuce, parsley, eggplants, Swiss chard and other vegetables sprout from five elevated planters, attached to metal structures that were built from tables salvaged after the fire. This is the work of the Amajudisa Community Gardening Group, led by Educación Popular en Salud (EPES) health monitors and supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

Health for the soul

Feeding ministries and meal programs provide immediate support to those in need. Community gardens and agricultural programs help communities grow food to nourish themselves and build stronger futures.
EPES was founded in 1982 by ELCA missionary Karen Anderson as a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile. The organization has one of the longest-standing partnerships with ELCA World Hunger. Dixa Contreras and Anita Navarro, the EPES health monitors who lead the Amajudisa garden, have been with the organization almost since it began. They started their training in 1984, in first aid and preventative health. Back then they were living under a dictatorship, largely confined to their homes. They learned about EPES from a meeting at their church. They say, “EPES gave us the confidence to gather courage and step out.” EPES is now an independent organization, but it has maintained close ties with the church. Through community events EPES health promoters share information on topics such as nutrition, breast cancer prevention, HIV and AIDS, and violence against women. EPES-led community gardens increase people’s access to nutritious food in urban areas.

Dixa and Anita are now encouraging other women in the neighborhood to venture beyond their homes and enrich their lives — as they themselves once did when they began training with EPES. They help coordinate 12 gardeners from Amajudisa. With encouragement from EPES, the municipal government of Santiago donated 20 sacks of composted soil to get the gardens started. EPES provided much of the soil, seeds, seedlings and technical knowledge, the last of these in an ongoing series of workshops on organic farming and healthy eating.

Many adults living in El Bosque come from rural areas of Chile. Dixa’s mother grew up in the rural area Chochol, in southern Chile. She once grew her own vegetables, but she stopped when she moved to the city. The community garden is helping her reclaim this lost tradition. “Some neighbors had no idea how to grow vegetables,” says Dixa. “Now they come here and have learned to eat healthy, nutritious food. Neighbors are surprised when we invite them in and tell them to take what they need. We have also shown them how to make their own gardens.”

Through your generosity to ELCA World Hunger you are increasing access to healthy food in the Amajudisa community and empowering women who live there. “Many women were not used to doing things with other people or learning new things,” Anita says. “This has changed their lives. They have learned to be more independent. It has opened new doors for them. What we are doing here is health.” Dixa adds, “It’s health for the soul.”

“Many women were not used to doing things with other people or learning new things. This has changed their lives.”

— DIXA
At Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio, your gifts are building a brighter future for young adults and the community that surrounds them.

Salem is the oldest Lutheran congregation in Toledo, located in a diverse neighborhood with a high concentration of poverty. The church’s partnership with ELCA World Hunger began almost 20 years ago, when it received a $4,000 grant for a job training program that prepares junior and senior high school students for long-term employment as adults. Soon afterward the program expanded to include adult mentors.

These days, participants in Salem’s summer job training program work in the church’s community garden. They have helped transform a nearby vacant lot into an urban farm, full of fresh produce that is harvested for community meals. They have also installed rain gardens and beehives, and visited local farmers markets to sell produce and their own artwork. This year, program participants expanded the garden by 25% by building raised beds and planting fruit trees.

Malaysia, a young adult at Salem Lutheran, has been participating in its youth programs since 2015. In addition to the job training program, she has been part of the teen program and volunteers with Salem’s food-related ministries. Now the church is walking alongside Malaysia through vocational discernment and exploration. Along with three other women from the neighborhood, she is being trained as a home health aide for aging residents. For Malaysia, Salem is much more than a congregation. “Salem is a family,” she says, “for me and many other people.”

As the program participants grow in leadership, they give back to the Salem community. The church aims to have at least one local teenager or young adult on staff year-round. A few years ago, a program participant became Salem’s administrative assistant and worked on a grant to improve infant and maternal mortality rates.

Your generosity reinforces a cycle of growth in communities such as Salem, making an impact now that will deepen in years to come.

You support programs, including education and vocational training, that help people facing hunger, homelessness and other challenges to access jobs, increase their earning potential and break the cycle of poverty for good.
Randa, a 35-year-old woman in the West Bank, has always loved expressing herself through art. She enjoyed painting and handicrafts as a child. But Randa has progressive hearing loss. Because her culture — like many — wasn’t built to support those without hearing, she couldn’t find a way to nurture her artistic skills.

Now, thanks in part to donors such as you, Randa has reignited her passion for art. Several years ago she joined the Deaf Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. This ministry gives deaf people in the Holy Land space to connect and build community. It also coordinates day trips, spiritual counseling and skill training for its members.

As Randa participated in the group, she learned how to adapt to her environment. Last year she participated in a workshop on how to make crafts out of resin, and she began her own business using those skills. Randa is one of a very small number of Deaf business owners in the Holy Land. She joined a larger community of makers and business owners by selling her art and custom crafts at Christmas and Easter bazaars.

In recent months Israel’s widespread military response to the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, 2023, has led to a humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land. Lutheran Disaster Response is walking alongside our partners there with support from donors such as you. In the West Bank, where Randa lives, small businesses such as hers have been impacted by restrictive checkpoint closures and a near-total lack of international tourism. Both at Christmas and at Easter, the heads of all Christian churches in the Holy Land agreed that celebrating as they usually do would be impossible, so most festive events, such as the holiday bazaars, were canceled.

Randa would like to earn a degree in fine arts. She also wants to strengthen the Deaf Ministry community. She has led the group in many art projects over the years. This year she designed a mural for the Deaf Ministry meeting space, and she invited the other members to contribute. She says, “Art is a powerful tool that brings people together no matter their backgrounds.”

Your generosity helps people such as Randa learn useful skills that will strengthen their livelihoods. It also helps them realize the full scope of their worth. Randa is determined to participate fully in the society she once felt excluded from. Deaf people aren’t a problem for society, she says: “We are part of it.”
**Pennsylvania** | Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger have helped build the Family Promise House in Brackenridge, Penn. The facility provides shelter, case management and support for families experiencing homelessness in the area.

**Nepal** | Ashok is a freed bonded laborer. With support from donors such as you, he has been able to open his own barbershop.

**Bolivia** | Since she was in second grade, Luz has been visiting an education center near her home in Bolivia. The center, which is supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, provides children with the resources they need to learn, grow and flourish.

**Egypt** | Your generosity to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response has helped over 47,000 refugees in Cairo access the resources they need to thrive in a new country. The program “changed my life,” says Ayaat, a Sudanese refugee. “They made me feel that I am not alone, that I am part of a community that cares.”

**Zimbabwe** | Gifts to ELCA World Hunger have strengthened the futures of vulnerable youth in many ways. Last year 11 youth received the capital, training and resources they needed to raise 26 goats. The herd has increased to over 40, and it’s still growing.

**Your gifts at work: 2023**
ELCA World Hunger
66 countries
41 states and territories

INTERNATIONAL
Angola
Argentina
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chile
China
Colombia
Czech Republic
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Jerusalem
Jordan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mexico
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Tanzania
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Uganda
Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zimbabwe

Lutheran Disaster Response
51 countries
34 states and territories

INTERNATIONAL
Afghanistan
Earthquake
Angola
Drought
Bangladesh
Fire
Belarus
Refugees
Brazil
Drought
Cameroon
Risk reduction
Central African Republic
Conflict, risk reduction, drought, health crisis
Chad
Conflict, risk reduction
Chile
Migration
Colombia
Conflict, migration
Egypt
Conflict
Ethiopia
Conflict, drought, refugees
Gambia
Flood
Guatemala
Cyclone
Haiti
Conflict
Hungary
Refugees
India
Conflict, emergency preparedness, flood
Jerusalem
Conflict
Jordan
Migration, refugees
Kenya
Conflict, flood
Lebanon
Conflict
Liberia
Conflict
Madagascar
Conflict, drought
Malawi
Flood, health crisis
Mexico
Cyclone, migration
Moldova
Refugees
Morocco
Earthquake
Mozambique
Flood, health crisis
Myanmar
Conflict, cyclone
Namibia
Flood
Nepal
Earthquake, flood
Nicaragua
Cyclone
Nigeria
Conflict
Peru
Cyclone, flood, migration
Poland
Conflict
Romania
Conflict
Rwanda
Conflict, drought
Senegal
Flood, health crisis
Serbia
Refugees
Slovakia
Refugees
Slovenia
Flood
Somalia
Flood
South Africa
Health crisis
South Sudan
Conflict, health crisis
Syria
Earthquake
Tanzania
Drought, flood
Turkey
Earthquake
Ukraine
Conflict
Venezuela
Conflict
Zimbabwe
Conflict, health crisis

UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN
Alabama
Tornadoes
Alaska
Typhoon Merbok
California
Capacity building, wildfires, migration
Colorado
Wildfires, migration
District of Columbia
Core support for Lutheran Services in America
Florida
Hurricanes Ian, Sally and Michael, disaster preparedness
Georgia
Tornadoes, disaster preparedness
Hawaii
Wildfires, volcanoes
Illinois
Capacity building, migration
Indiana
Disaster preparedness, migration
Kentucky
Flooding, tornadoes, disaster preparedness
Louisiana
Disaster preparedness and climate resiliency, housing
Maryland
Tidal storm flooding
Michigan
Disaster preparedness, migration
Minnesota
Tornadoes, migration
Mississippi
Tornadoes, water crisis
Montana
Extreme cold
New Hampshire
Migration
New Jersey
Hurricane Ida
New Mexico
Wildfires
New York
Disaster preparedness, winter storm, Buffalo mass shooting, migration
North Carolina
Hurricanes Ian and Florence, tornadoes, disaster preparedness, capacity building, migration
Ohio
Tornadoes
Oklahoma
Migration
Oregon
Wildfires, winter storm, disaster preparedness and climate resiliency
Pennsylvania
Hurricane Ida, flooding
Puerto Rico
Hurricanes Maria and Fiona, disaster preparedness, migration
South Carolina
Hurricanes Ian and Florence, disaster preparedness
South Dakota
Extreme cold and houselessness, hazard mitigation
Tennessee
Tornadoes, flooding, gun violence, capacity building
Texas
Disaster preparedness, migration
Vermont
Flooding
Washington
Migration
Wisconsin
Migration

ELCA.org/hunger | 9
In Cary, N.C., your gifts are enabling Christ the King Lutheran Church to work with the Farmers of Color Network to educate congregation and community members about systemic discrimination against Black farmers and to support them directly. The ministry also coordinates farmers’ donations of produce to local nonprofits that serve both older adults and people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

In 2023, your gifts helped our partners here in the United States to train 1,755 individuals in community organizing from coast to coast. Over 300 neighborhood organizers, faith leaders, union members and people from community groups walked alongside construction workers in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., in a mile-long march for dignity and respect, organized by Centro De Trabajadores Unidos En La Lucha.

Domestic Grants by Sector

- Food Security and Production and Water: 43%
- Housing and LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness: 13%
- Peace & Justice and Advocacy: 11%
- Sustainable Livelihoods: 9%
- Education: 10%
- Health: 7%
- Community Organizing: 7%

Single grants may be represented on this chart more than once because domestic partners of ELCA World Hunger work across sectors.
ELCA World Hunger

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals and Others</td>
<td>$10,228,230</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synods and Congregations</td>
<td>$7,138,754</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests, Trusts and Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$1,844,084</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowments, Other ELCA-held Funds</td>
<td>$990,664</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Program</td>
<td>$16,844,412</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Program</td>
<td>$6,187,391</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educating and Networking</td>
<td>$663,143</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief and Development</td>
<td>$3,362,041</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>$2,162,207</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administration and Fundraising</td>
<td>$1,923,005</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

International Grants by Sector

- Food, Agriculture and Livelihood
- Health
- Education and Vocational Training
- Relief and Preparedness
- Peace, Justice and Human Rights
- Program Services

Note: Expenditures that exceed income are made possible by generosity in previous years.

Unaudited financial highlights for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2024.
When an earthquake hit Nepal in November 2023, Suvasna Agri’s house collapsed. Afterward she was living in a tarp shelter with her newborn child and her parents. She received relief items, including blankets, mattresses and cold-weather clothing, from the Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN). With your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, CDWN was able to distribute these items to earthquake survivors, prioritizing Dalit, Indigenous and marginalized families in rural areas.
Lutheran Disaster Response

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**REVENUE** $13,698,753

**BY SOURCE**
- 60% Individuals and Others $8,210,536
- 40% Synods and Congregations $5,488,217

**BY DESIGNATION**
- 54% General Undesignated Support $7,395,318
- 46% Specific Designated Support $6,303,435

**EXPENDITURES** $18,325,596

**BY TYPE**
- 62% International $11,503,633
- 33% United States $6,008,478
- 5% Fundraising and Administration $813,485

**BY FUND**
- 52% Specific Designated Support $9,537,810
- 48% General Undesignated Support $8,787,786

**HIGHLIGHTED EXPENDITURES**

**UNITED STATES**
- Hurricanes 38%
- Capacity Building, Core Support, Emotional and Spiritual Care 18%
- Wildfires 18%
- Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Floods and Other Disasters 16%
- Migration 6%
- Operations 4%

**INTERNATIONAL**
- Europe and Middle East 50% (war in Ukraine, refugee crisis)
- Africa 18% (drought, conflict, health crisis, hurricane, refugee crisis)
- Latin America and Caribbean 9% (earthquake, flood, COVID-19, drought, hurricane, migrants — including AMMPARO)
- Asia 8% (flood, disaster preparedness, hurricane, refugee crisis)
- Global Grants 8%
- Operations 7%

Percentages are approximate.

Note: Expenditures exceed income primarily due to disasters for which there is a multi-year response.

Unaudited financial highlights for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2024.
In the past, whenever her area was under a flood warning, Annette Morgan knew that it meant water would get into her home.

Annette lives in Crisfield, Md., one of the oldest communities and commercial fishing and seafood centers of Chesapeake Bay.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been accompanying the Crisfield community since Hurricane Sandy caused widespread flooding in 2012. At the time, Lutheran Disaster Response supported the rebuilding efforts of the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee (SCLTRC). Leaders designed the recovery committee with intention and sensitivity to the long history of racism and exclusion of Black people from decision-making.

While recovery from Hurricane Sandy had been largely completed by fall 2021, Crisfield and other nearby communities experienced extreme coastal flooding that October. Community leaders have determined that unless they raise homes more than eight feet aboveground, they will be constantly repairing flood damage to homes.

Because of the legacy of the SCLTRC, the community was ready to plan and work toward equitable recovery through an intentional, transformational process, and it quickly formed the Eastern Shore Long-Term Recovery Committee with the same emphasis on representing the community’s diversity.

With funding from Lutheran Disaster Response, the local government and other partners, the long-term recovery committee has progressed to the second phase of the rebuilding project, raising 108 homes — including Annette’s — to lessen the impacts of inevitable future flooding.

“No, in the middle of the night, when I get a flood warning notification, I don’t need to worry anymore,” Annette said. “I can roll over and go back to sleep.”

This peace of mind enjoyed by Annette and others in the Crisfield community shows the importance of incorporating disaster mitigation into relief and recovery work.

“The uniqueness of this project is that it weds together long-term recovery and mitigation,” said the Rev. Phil Huber, an ELCA pastor and the coordinator of agencies for the Eastern Shore LTRC. The goals, he explains, are “to prevent repetitive loss, to be good stewards of the funding entrusted to us and, most importantly, to significantly improve the quality of life for the families we’re working with.”

The work in Crisfield is made possible by on-the-ground leaders, ecumenical partnerships, an equitable recovery group that reflects the racial composition of the community, and your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response. Together we can take steps toward a more just, climate-resilient world.
“Now, in the middle of the night, when I get a flood warning notification, I don’t need to worry anymore.”

ANNETTE

Members of the Eastern Shore Long-Term Recovery Committee are raising homes more than eight feet above ground to lessen the impacts of flooding.
New resources are available for the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger!

Learn how you and your congregation can get involved at [ELCA.org/WH50](http://ELCA.org/WH50)

**How to give**

**GIVE ONLINE**
ELCA.org/hunger/donate
ELCA.org/disaster/donate

**GIVE BY PHONE**
800-638-3522

**GIVE BY MAIL**
Make checks payable to “ELCA World Hunger” or “Lutheran Disaster Response” and mail to:

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

You are making an impact around the world. Thank you!

You are making an impact around the world.

**POSTER**
TWO-SIDED

**ACTION GUIDE**
FOR CONGREGATIONS

**BROCHURE & ENVELOPE**

**WINDOW CLING**