

ACTION GUIDE

for CONGREGATIONS



ELCA World Hunger

Photo: Out of the Garden Project (Greensboro, N.C.), an ELCA World Hunger grant recipient.

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. Our church creatively and courageously works through ELCA World Hunger 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 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

 Twitter.com/ELCAWorldHunger

 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 or post them to ELCA World Hunger's Facebook page at 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 to sign up today.

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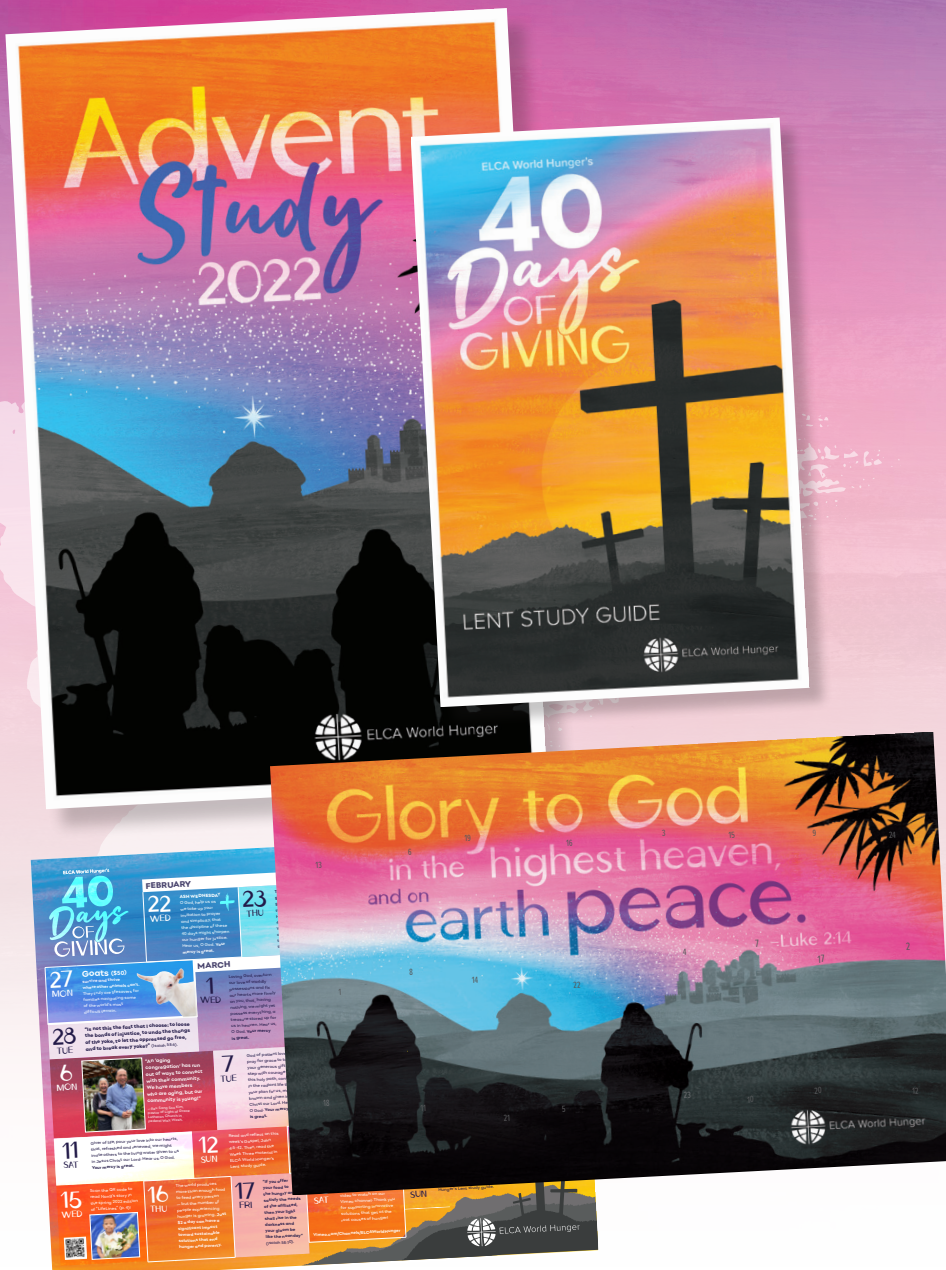
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SEASONAL IDEAS

The theme for our new seasonal materials is

“Justice, Peace and Wondrous Things: A Journey Through the Psalms With ELCA World Hunger ”



In the Psalms we will find the pleas of a people — our spiritual ancestors — for renewal and transformation, for justice and peace, and for hope and comfort.

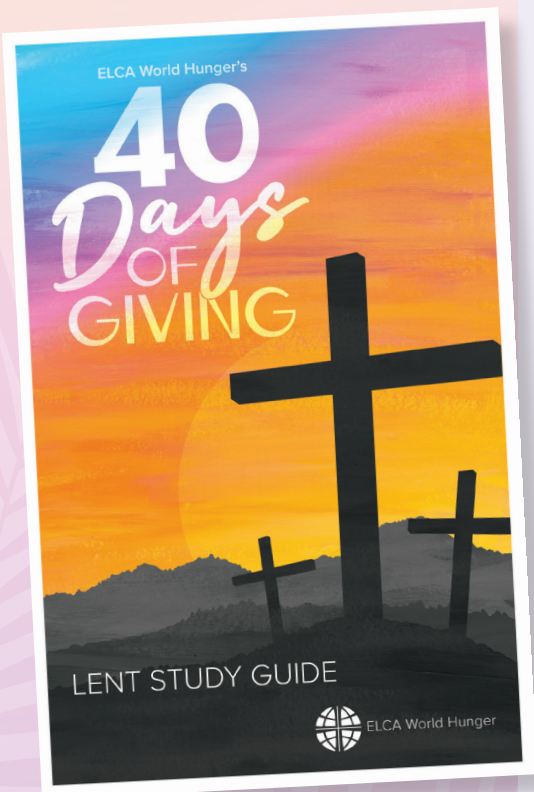
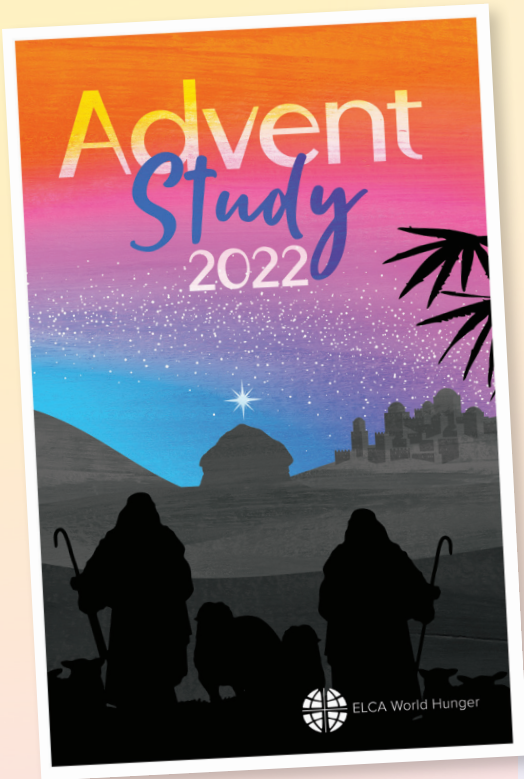
We will read the psalmist's lament for the old Kingdom of David, which was reduced to rubble. We will read the yearning for safety and rest after the Israelites' experience of war and exile. We will read earnest prayers for a world where peace and justice reign and all are satisfied. And we will read outbursts of thankful praise for God, who restores the people, feeds all who hunger and "keeps faith forever" (Psalm 146:6).

STUDY GUIDES

Join ELCA World Hunger this Advent and Lent through study, reflection, prayer and worship. The 2022 Advent and Lent studies are full of new weekly devotions anchored in the Psalms. 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.



Download and print for free at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "Seasonal" tab, or order printed copies online at resources.ELCA.org/.



"God gave me another opportunity that I don't intend to waste. ...

[Mennonite Social Action Commission (CASM), partners of ELCA World Hunger] have been a light in the midst of the darkness, and I am more than grateful, because they have given me back the hope that I can go on."


—Norma Ramirez

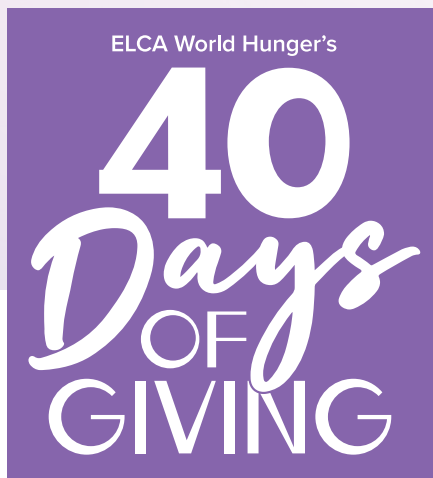
Each session of the Advent and Lent study guides features a story from someone who benefits from the work of ELCA World Hunger around the world. **Read Norma's story in session 4 of the Advent study guide!**

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 or a story 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 to order free calendars to distribute to families in your congregation. Advent calendars come in packs of 10; Lent calendars are packaged individually.



ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving

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

40 Days of Giving begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Rethink gift-giving with ELCA Good Gifts!

The average American spends more than \$900 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 also 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:



New Good Gift cards for Christmas and Easter!

When you give an ELCA Good Gift in honor of a friend or loved one, send one of our new cards to tell them about it! Visit 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.

Advent tree

Whether your Christmas tree is at church or at home, decorate it with ornaments that represent your donations to ELCA Good Gifts. Invite friends and family to select ornaments representing the gifts they'd like to give, and to take them home as a reminder of their giving. Keep the tree full of ornaments to encourage participation and to celebrate the work the whole church is doing!

- Visit 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!





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!



Seeds and gardening tools • \$50



Stock a backpack with food • \$10

Raise funds for a family farm as a congregation! Visit ELCA.org/GoodGifts to learn more about group gifts.



Family farm



• \$715



Pair of goats

• \$100



Pig

• \$30

Get ready for Valentine's Day!



On the Sunday before Valentine's Day, spread the love to ELCA World Hunger's partner ministries throughout the world with ELCA Good Gifts—grams and children's color-your-own valentines. Purchase ELCA Good Gifts—grams in honor of your friend, child or significant other to celebrate 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 also available for kids of all ages!





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

Global Farm Challenge Resources

Ending hunger isn't just about food. It's about access, it's about justice, it's about caring for creation and each other. It's about hope for the world we want to live in. Ending hunger means recognizing the ways God is at work in farming communities and the ways God is calling all of us, together, to be part of the solution.



Bring ELCA World Hunger into the life of your youth group and congregation with Global Farm Challenge resources to use at church, on the road to your next service-learning trip, at camp or at any summer gathering.

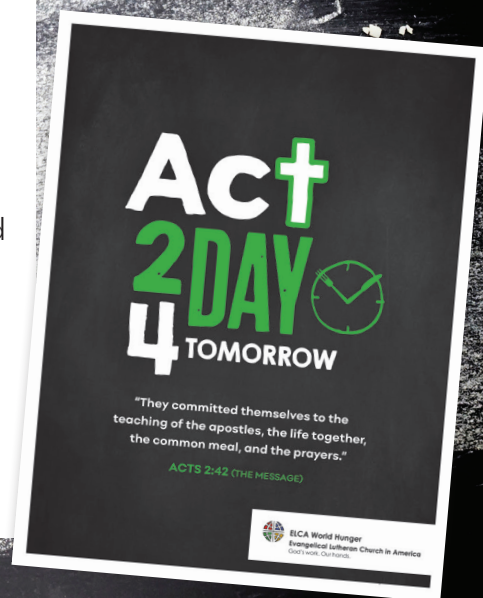
 Order or download resources for free at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources).




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](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) 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.



Breaking the cycle of hunger starts with women.

DOUBLE SIDED



Women and girls around the world are more vulnerable to hunger and poverty than men are. ELCA World Hunger supports programs in more than 60 countries, including the United States, that help secure education for girls, invest in women's businesses, provide maternal and child health care and work for gender justice. All are critical steps toward a world where all are fed.
ELCA.org/hunger

"If we start talking about issues women face, whether in our families or with ourselves, it will impact our societies. Change starts with us."
— St. Andrew's Refugee Services (SARS) program participant in Cairo, Egypt



Order posters for free at resources.ELCA.org.

HOUSING:

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR LEARNING, ADVOCATING AND BUILDING

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



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 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." 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.



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

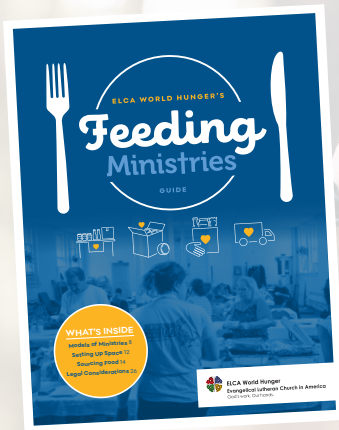


Climate and Hunger Toolkit

This updated resource from ELCA World Hunger features a variety of activities to help your group learn 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.



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



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.



"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 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.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- Take a special offering for ELCA World Hunger and help 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) and help educate or activate your congregation.
- Learn about important ways your congregation can be involved in ELCA advocacy initiatives at [ELCA.org/advocacy](https://elca.org/advocacy).
- Plan an intergenerational activity! Use the toolkits available at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) to create unique learning experiences for people of all ages in your congregation.

Special dates to consider:



World Food Day Celebration · Sunday, Oct. 16

Join ELCA World Hunger for a celebration of World Food Day, hosted by Rick Steves along with special guest Mark Jansen, CEO of Blue Diamond Almonds. This special event will be streamed online so you can celebrate with ELCA World Hunger wherever you are! Email hunger@elca.org for more information and to make sure you're on the invitation list.



World Water Day · Wednesday, March 22, 2023

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



World Refugee Day · Tuesday, June 20, 2023

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



World AIDS Day · Friday, Dec. 1, 2023

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](https://elca.org/HIV), where you will find resources for worship and "AIDS and the Church's Ministry of Caring," the ELCA's first social message, as relevant today as when it was first adopted in 1988.

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 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.



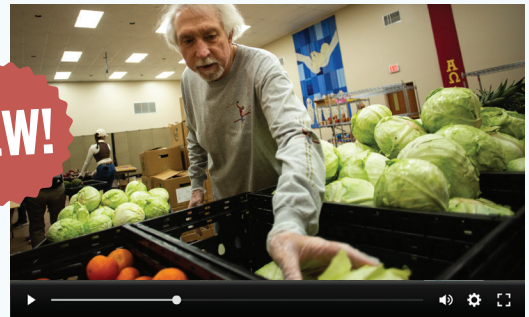
Check out all of ELCA World Hunger's videos at [Vimeo.com/channels/ELCAWorldHunger](https://vimeo.com/channels/ELCAWorldHunger) or on the ELCA World Hunger playlist at YouTube.com/ELCA.

NEW!



A Prayer for the ELCA

NEW!



Feeding Neighbors in Virginia

NEW!



Pursuing Justice and Food Security in Brazil



"We're Chicken Women!"
(the Manna From Heaven story)



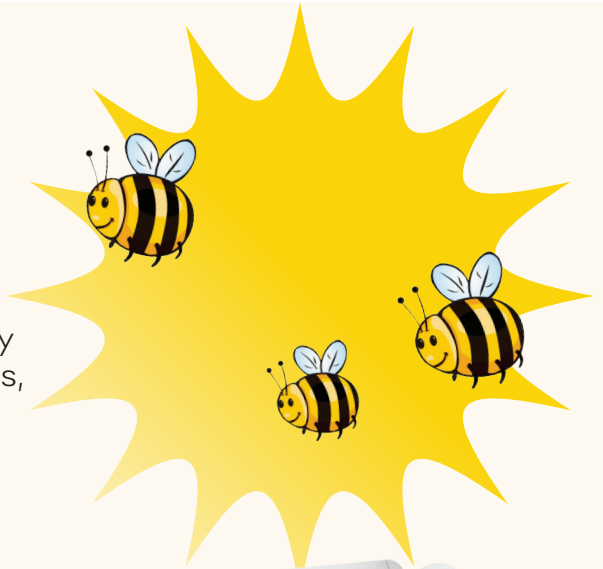
"Education Opens Doors for Young Women in Guatemala"



"ELCA World Hunger:
Until All Are Fed"

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.



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.

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



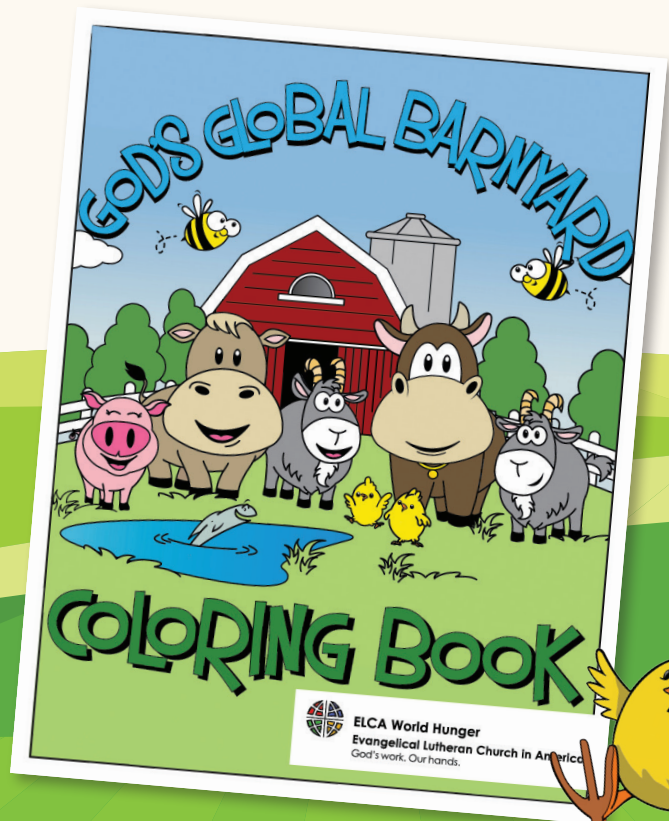
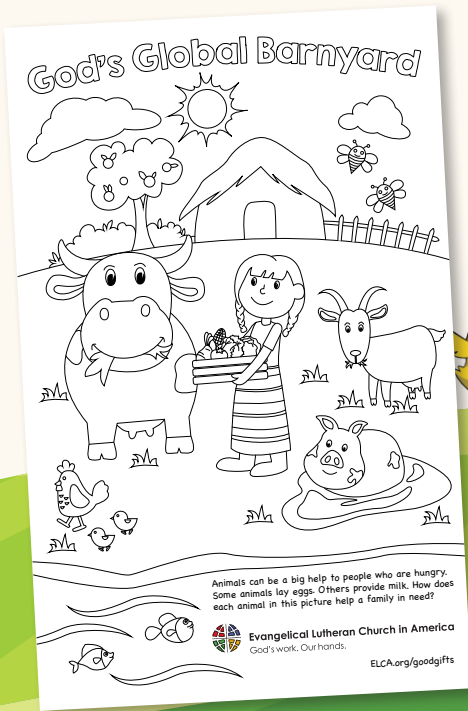
Coin boxes

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

Order these fun resources and activities to teach the children in your congregation all about God's Global Barnyard:

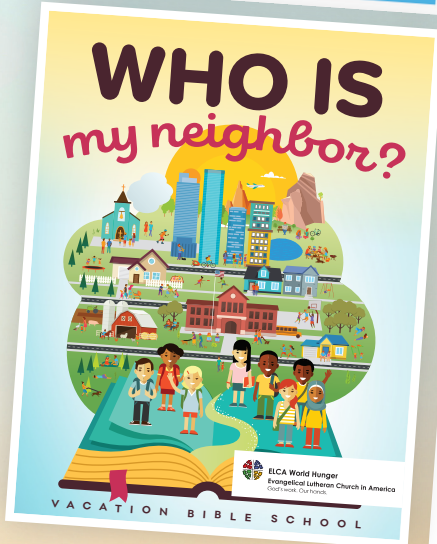
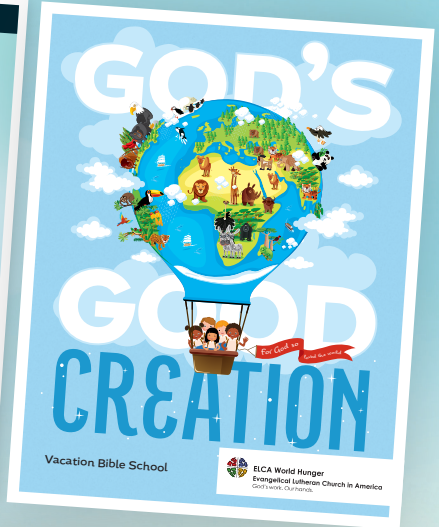
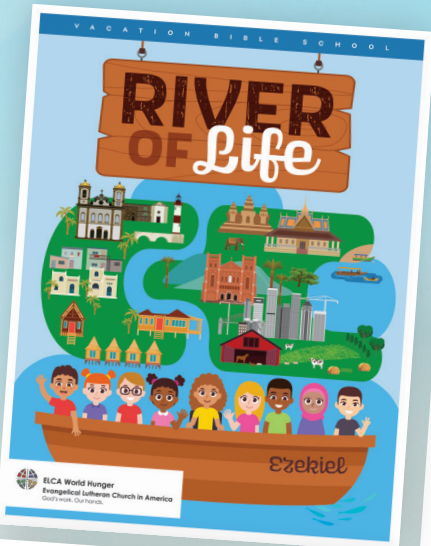
Distribute these coloring-sheet bulletin inserts to children during worship or Sunday school. The back side of the coloring sheet provides pictures and information about each animal.

Order this coloring book for Sunday school or send to families for fun at home. 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.



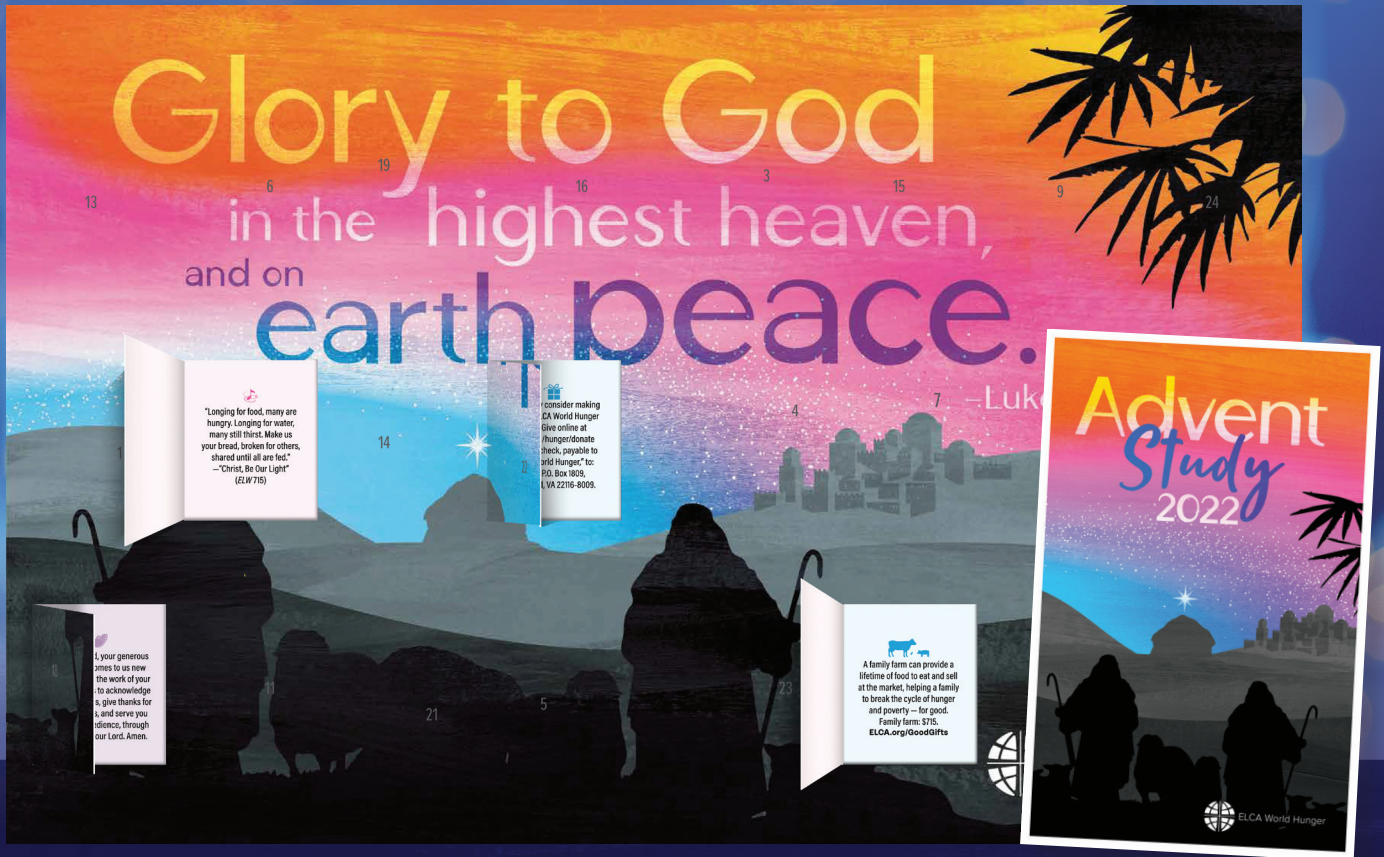
Share a pig, cow, chicken or other barnyard friends during a children's sermon or Sunday school class while teaching children about the difference an animal makes to a family in need.

Vacation Bible School Programs!



New seasonal resources!

The theme for our new seasonal materials is
**"A Journey Through the Psalms
 With ELCA World Hunger"**



In the Psalms we will find the pleas of a people — our spiritual ancestors —
 for renewal and transformation,
 for justice and peace,
 and for hope and comfort.



ELCA World Hunger