

ELCA World Hunger's 40 DAYS of Giving

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship Begin your week with the word of God, preparing your heart and mind to learn more about what it means to hope during the season of Lent.	Study Use ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving weekly Lenten study at home or with your church community to dive deeper into stories of hunger and hope this Lent. Download at ELCA.org/40Days .	Reflect Use these days to revisit and reflect on the weekly study readings, either in small groups or individually.	Pray Use the prayers of intercession shown throughout the calendar this Lent as, together, we humbly ask for God's care and blessing over all creation. Prayers have been adapted from <i>Sundays and Seasons</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 2019).	Give As you journey through Lent, consider how your gifts to ELCA World Hunger can create hope throughout the world. Set a specific goal (such as \$2/day) or select one of the ideas shown throughout this calendar.	Hear To hear the word of God this Lent, read and reflect on each week's selected Bible verses on your own, with your family or with a small group.	Sing To close each week — and remind yourself of the salvation to come in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — read the included hymn text, either to yourself or out loud as a group, or consider singing the full hymn in your prayer group, Bible study or worship service.



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

Goal amount: \$ _____

			MARCH	2	3	4	5		
			Ash Wednesday						
			God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted, as we are. Guide us through this season, that we might open ourselves to blessing through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	Today is a good day to set a goal for your giving to ELCA World Hunger as part of 40 Days of Giving. That goal might be a specific dollar amount or one of the ideas shown throughout this calendar. Write it down and refer back to it throughout the season.				"Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and [the Lord] will say, Here I am. If you ... offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday" (Isaiah 58:9-10).	"As your Spirit in the desert led the Christ to dust and stone, so instill our hearts with courage now to cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross into the wilderness so to walk where Christ has gone. ... Let us cross into the wilderness with God's manna as our bread." "As Your Spirit in the Desert" (All Creation Sings 923)

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Read and reflect on Luke 4:1-13.	Like our biblical ancestors who journeyed through the wilderness before us, we look back, remembering how God has been with us, and look forward, longing for God's promises to be fulfilled. Explore what this means with ELCA World Hunger in Week 1 of our study guide, "A Way in the Wilderness."	Have you experienced a part of your faith journey that you could describe as "wilderness"? How was or is God present during that time? What fundamental God-truths did you hold onto?	Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these 40 days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	With rates of hunger around the world skyrocketing during the COVID-19 pandemic, disasters wreaking havoc and conflict uprooting lives, the world can seem like an overwhelming wilderness. You can make a difference with a gift of \$100 to ELCA World Hunger this Lent.	"The Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm ... and [the Lord] brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey" (Deuteronomy 26:7-9).	"Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Christ, be our light!" "Christ, Be Our Light" (ELW 715)

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Read and reflect on Luke 12:31-35.	We entered this sacred season turning inward with penitent hearts and an awareness of our dependence on God's grace. We are called to live bold and courageous lives as we follow in Jesus' footsteps. Read Week 2 in the Lent study guide to dive deeper.	Think, share or journal about a time when your self-reflection led to an external expression of your faith. What did or does that look like?	Faithful God of love, you blessed us with your servant Son so that we might know how to serve your people with justice and with mercy. We gather the needs of ourselves and others, and offer them to you in faith and love, seeking to be strengthened to meet them. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	A woman might have the dream and skills to start her own small business, but with little savings or access to credit, getting started can be a challenge. A gift of \$125 can fund a microloan , which can be just what a woman needs to start her business, creating a steady source of income and helping her family overcome poverty.	"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1).	"One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless, and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord." "One Bread, One Body" (ELW 496)

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Read and reflect on Luke 13:1-9.	A walk in the wilderness reminds us that we all have vulnerabilities, but some are more vulnerable than others. Jesus calls us to bear witness to and participate in bringing about God's promises for our neighbors in the wilderness. Discover more in Week 3 of "A Way in the Wilderness."	World Water Day	God of patient love, you await the return of the wayward and wandering and eagerly embrace them in pardon. Through baptism you have clothed us with the glory of Christ and restored our inheritance: give us generous hearts to welcome all who seek a place at the table of your unconditional love. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	A simple water well or other water point can help as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water. A gift of \$250 can provide a share of a clean water project.	"O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you" (Psalm 63:1-3).	"Renueva, oh Dios, tu iglesia hoy, sacúdela, Señor; haz que recobre tu visión y anuncie con nuevo ardor que Cristo obró la redención, mostrando así su amor." "Tú Distes a Israel / God, With a Mighty Hand" (Libro de Liturgia y Cántico 476)

27	28	29	30	31	APRIL	1	2
Read and reflect on Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.	Ending hunger will require more than food, and the church's response to hunger is not merely a response to a problem, but to God's promises. Learn about what this means in Week 4 of our study guide.	Dream for a moment about what a just world where all are fed would be like. Then, envision what it might look like. Grab a piece of scrap paper and writing or drawing utensils. Next, draw it! What imagery are you gravitating toward? Show or describe it to a friend!	Giver of life, day by day you sustain the weary with your word and gently encourage us to place our trust in you. Awaken us to the suffering of those around us; save us from hiding in denials or taunts that deepen the hurt; give us grace to share one another's burdens in humble service. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	The world produces more food today than it has at any point in human history — more than enough to feed every person — but the number of people experiencing hunger is growing. Just \$2 a day can have a significant impact toward sustainable solutions that end hunger and poverty.	APRIL	"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to [Godself] through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).	"'We praise you, our God, for the light of your word; we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil. We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield, for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil." "'As Rain From the Clouds" (ELW 508)

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Read and reflect on John 12:1-8.	As church, our calling is not merely to minister to our neighbors but to bear witness to the "new thing" God is doing in our world, a new community God is making possible. This is not easy work, but we are not alone. Dive deeper by reading Week 5 in "A Way in the Wilderness."	Think, journal or share about a new thing God could be doing in your church community. How might that new thing bear witness to God's promise of a world where justice prevails? What is one step you can take together before Easter to meet needs of hunger and poverty in your community?	Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters the desert. Help us to recognize your hand working miracles beyond our imagining. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all, and its presence in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	As many as 811 million people around the world are undernourished. Your gifts matter — in Indonesia, the United States, Tanzania and other countries all around the world. Keep learning about how you can make an impact by visiting ELCA.org/Hunger. Thank you.	"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19).	"All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed. ... Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good." "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" (ELW 461)

Holy Week						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Read and reflect on Luke 19:28-40.	Loving God, we are caught between joy and despair, yearning for the fulfillment of your desire beyond the brokenness and neediness of this life. We offer thanksgiving for your presence with us and petition for the transformation of the church and the world. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	Faithful creator, as you delivered the Hebrews safely out of the long labor of slavery, so, morning by morning, you draw us forth into the new day. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	Almighty God, we pray that wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love and peace, to the glory of your name. Your mercy is great.	Gather all you've collected throughout your Lenten journey and add up your total gift to ELCA World Hunger. Make your donations online at ELCA.org/40Days or bring your gifts to your congregation. Thank you for working creatively and courageously toward a just world where all are fed.	"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ... In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard" (Hebrews 4:16, 5:7).	"Christ, we come from desert places, deepest thirst unsatisfied. Lead us to the waters flowing from the cross on which you died. Jesus, source of living water, may we drink of you and live!" "As the Deer Runs to the River" (ELW 331)

Easter	17
<p><i>He is not here, but has risen! Alleluia!</i></p>	
Read, reflect on and rejoice in John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12.	

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