

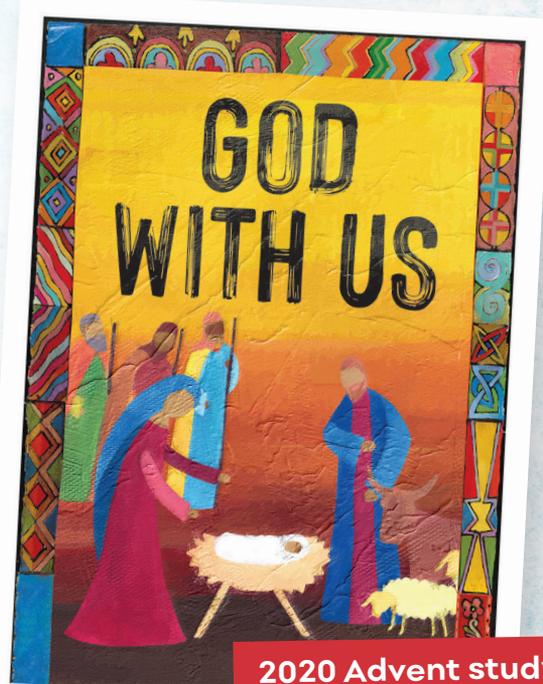
ACTION GUIDE for CONGREGATIONS



2020 Advent calendar



Advent tree ornaments



2020 Advent study



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

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

Advent Study
2020

HOW TO

USE THIS GUIDE



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Chances are that your congregation is already making a difference in the fight against hunger and poverty by accompanying its neighbors, raising funds and collecting in-kind donations. During this pandemic, these vital hunger ministries have been especially needed. This guide is designed to equip you, whether you are meeting online or in person, with some of the newest and most popular resources to activate your congregation as you continue that fight. Through this work and together as a church, we are achieving things on a scale and scope we could never do otherwise.

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 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:

Congregation's responses are sung, with accompaniment or a capella, to the tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Leader: In this season of waiting, we remember those bound by hunger and thirst and those who long to taste freedom — from want, from fear and from isolation. To God, who frees us, we pray:

Community: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

Leader: In this season of anticipation, we groan with those who long for the banquet at which all will be fed. To God, who welcomes us, we pray:

Community: O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh.

Leader: In this season of watching, we walk with refugees and migrants, and remember our own long journey to the Promised Land. To God, who accompanies us, we pray:

Community: O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height.

Leader: In this season of winter, we hear the cries of a newborn babe echoing in a stable and are moved by the cries echoing from the streets and alleyways, the shelters and viaducts of our own communities. To God, who wanders with us, we pray:

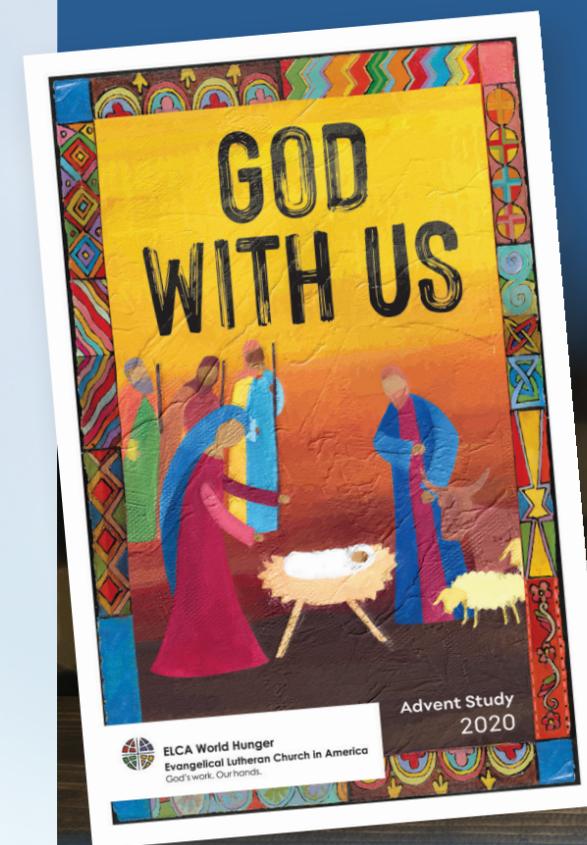
Community: O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home.

Leader: In this season of hope, we work for peace, toward a world in which all lives have value. To God, who reconciles us, we pray:

Community: O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one.

Leader: In this season of expectation, we strive for justice, awaiting the One who brings good news to the poor and sets the captives free. To God, who calls us, we pray:

Community: O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer, O Sun of justice, now draw near.



ADVENT STUDY

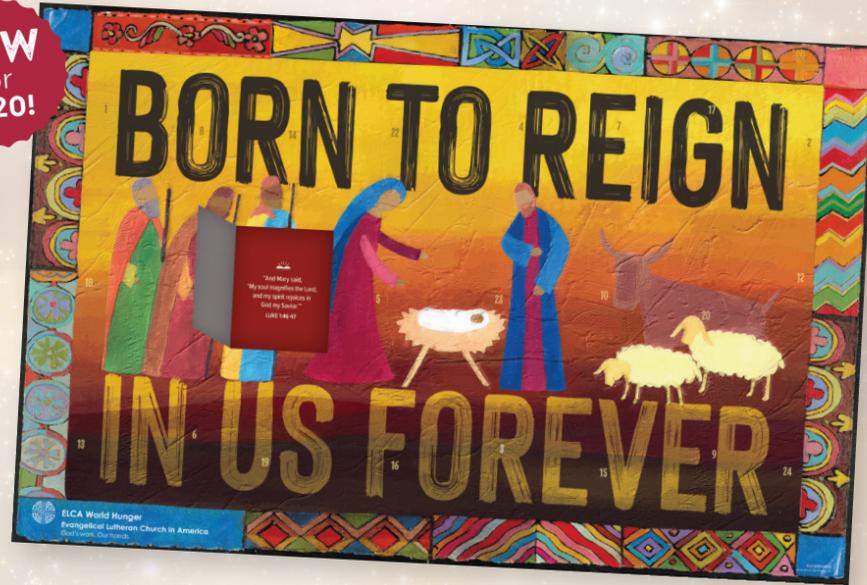
Rejoice and reflect this Advent season through study, prayer and worship. ELCA World Hunger's 2020 Advent study is full of new weekly devotions. Use this resource during weekly worship or adult study, online or in person, or encourage members to read it each week during Advent.

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.



ADVENT CALENDAR

NEW for 2020!



Celebrate the excitement, anticipation and wonder of Christ's birth with the 2020 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 to order free calendars to distribute to families in your congregation.



Each pack contains 25 calendars, and we recommend one calendar per household.

"Gifts of Hope 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 decorating a tree at home or in your church's gathering space, families can hang ornaments as a reminder of their giving. Adorn a tree with ornaments that represent ELCA Good Gifts as well as your congregation's fundraising goal. Invite families to select ornaments representing the gifts they'd like to give and to take them home as a reminder of their giving. If you have multiple entrances or gathering spaces, consider using several trees. Keep each tree full of ornaments to encourage participation and to celebrate the work we're doing with the whole church!

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!



ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The average American spends more than \$700 on Christmas gifts each year. Yet, when we think about the best gifts we have 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 a gift that also touches 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.



\$100

Pair of goats



\$10

Chicks



\$50

Seeds and gardening tools

POPULAR ELCA GOOD GIFTS!



\$30

Water filter



\$10

Stock a backpack with food



\$30

Pig

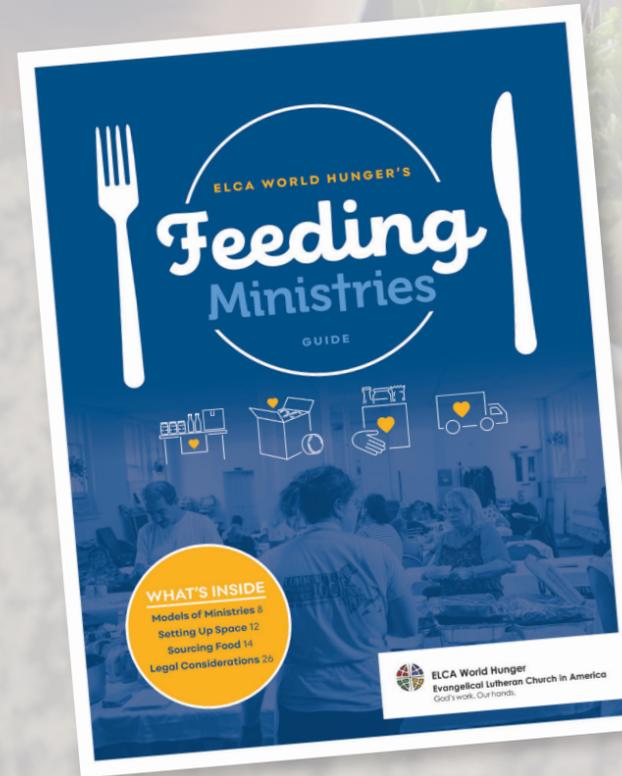
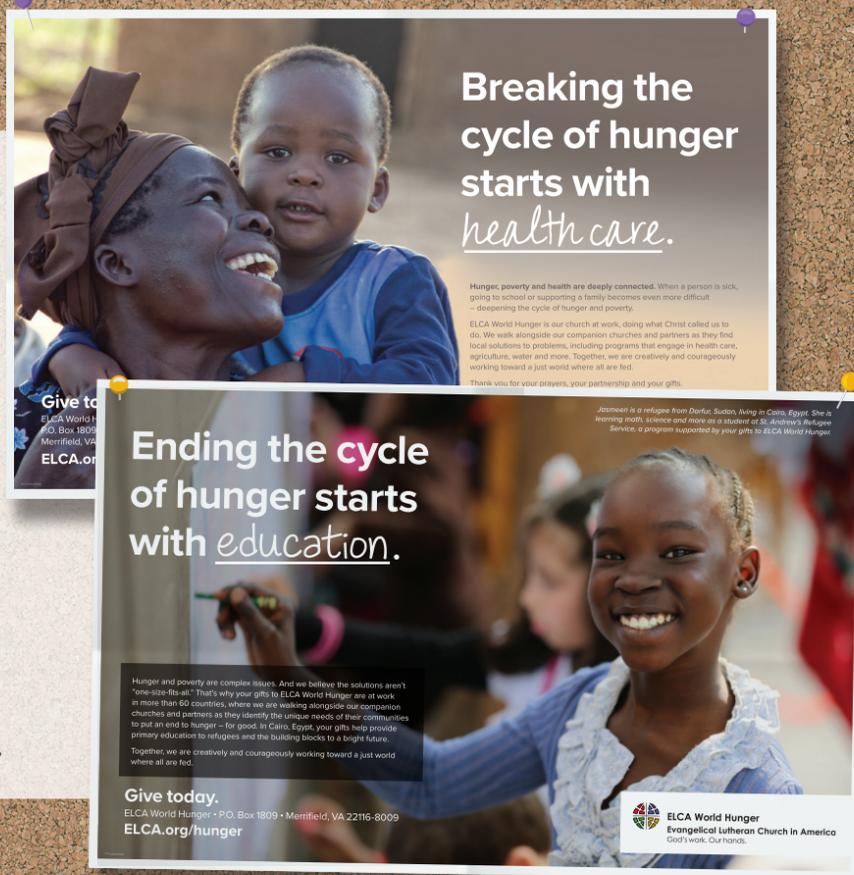


When you give an ELCA Good Gift in honor of a friend or loved one, our cards make it easy to tell them about it! Visit ELCA.org/GoodGifts to give online and personalize free, printed cards to be sent directly to your loved ones. You may also opt to send the cards to yourself, print them at home or have 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.



START OR GROW A FEEDING MINISTRY

BRAND NEW!

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.

Mark your calendars — plan for Lent 2021!

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 who are supporting the life-changing work of ELCA World Hunger through worship, gift and prayer. Look for more information and new resources coming soon through ELCA World Hunger's social media!

Questions? Email us at hunger@elca.org.

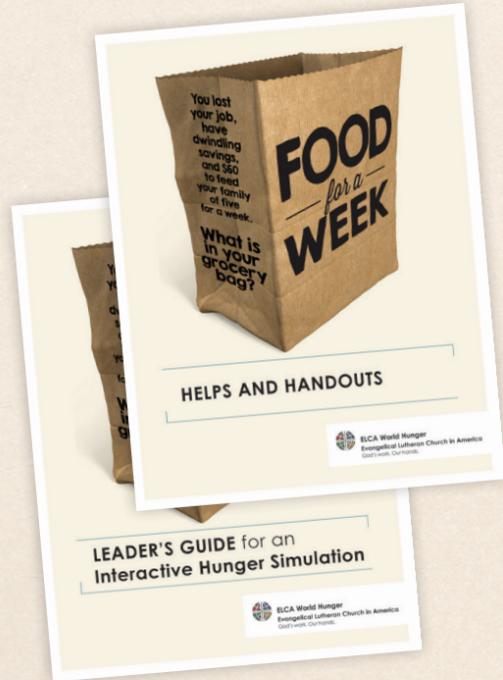
IDEAS FROM BULLDOG PANTRY

ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant recipient

Student coordinators from nearby colleges keep Bulldog Pantry in Fresno, Calif., up and running. "I get to work closely in identifying and addressing a social issue that impacts a significant number of our community members," says Heidi Gonzalez, a student at Fresno State who has worked at the food pantry for three years.

What resources does your community already have to address hunger?





LEAD AN INTERACTIVE HUNGER SIMULATION

NEW VERSION
COMING
IN 2021

Do you want your community to take a deeper dive into issues of hunger? "Food for a Week" is a resource designed to help you lead your congregation or youth group in a personal, interactive experience of hunger in the United States they won't soon forget. This resource equips you with a leader's guide, profile handouts and a PowerPoint presentation. The "Food for a Week" simulation offers an opportunity to enter into dialogue about food access and availability or spark some creativity for those who wish to respond to the issue of food security in their context.

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](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) under the "Hunger Ed" 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.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Sunday, 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

Sunday, 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](https://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](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).



WORLD WATER DAY

Monday, March 22

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



WORLD AIDS DAY

Wednesday, Dec. 1

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

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=PL8111111111111111).



Rick Steves: Why Support ELCA World Hunger



Supporting Strong Babies in Milwaukee



East Boston Community Soup Kitchen



The Seeds of Change in Malawi

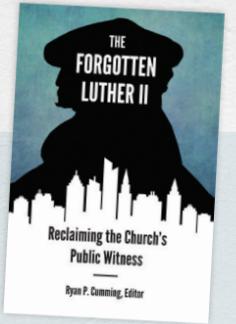


Until All Are Fed



Rebecca's Story

THE FORGOTTEN LUTHER III



THE FORGOTTEN LUTHER

This collection of essays from leading Lutheran thinkers, theologians and activists excavates Martin Luther's theological focus on social and economic justice. By bringing these "forgotten" elements of Reformation theology to light, it helps contemporary heirs of Luther's thought to honor and advance this neglected part of his legacy by responding to the economic and social injustices of our own time.

THE FORGOTTEN LUTHER II

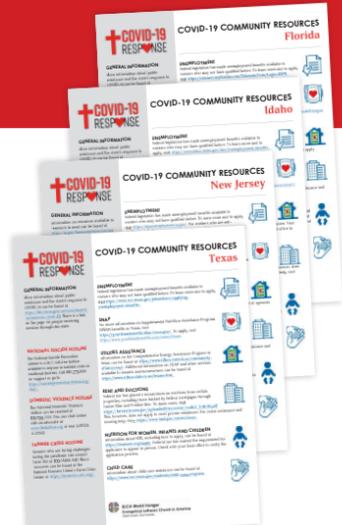
In *The Forgotten Luther II: Reclaiming the Church's Public Witness*, Lutheran scholars argue for a clear, cogent, biblically based and theologically grounded rationale for how the church speaks and acts in the political arena. This essay anthology looks carefully at the public witness of Martin Luther and its meaning for preaching, teaching and carrying out public ministry today. Luther was convinced that government is responsible to God for containing evil and maintaining peace and good order, and for ensuring that no person lives in hunger or want. The essays ask critical questions: When should the church support the state's agenda? When should it resist? What are the options for critical but constructive cooperation?

The Forgotten Luther II comes with discussion questions to guide reflection, and video interviews with the authors are available online.

Purchase the book for \$16.99 from Fortress Press at fortresspress.com/forgottenlutherii.

A portion of the proceeds will support the ongoing work of ELCA advocacy through ELCA World Hunger.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE RESOURCES BY STATE



For many of our neighbors, the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have thrust them into the world of applications, documentation and eligibility requirements that make up our public assistance programs here in the United States.

ELCA World Hunger's newest set of guides, "Community Assistance Resources by State," is meant to help potential applicants get started in applying for benefits they and their families may need. Each one-page guide has links to information and applications for each of the following programs for all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Download these resources for free at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "Hunger Ed" tab.

"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 them 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.

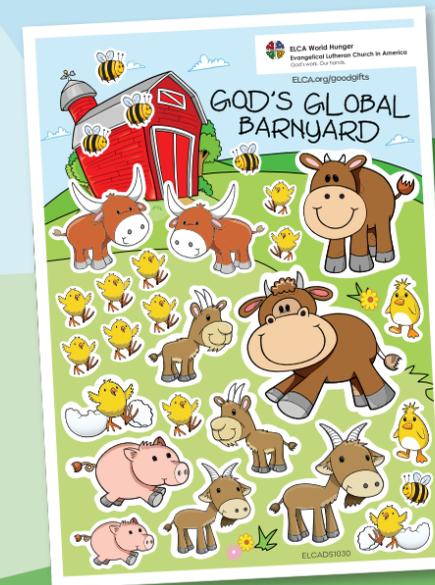
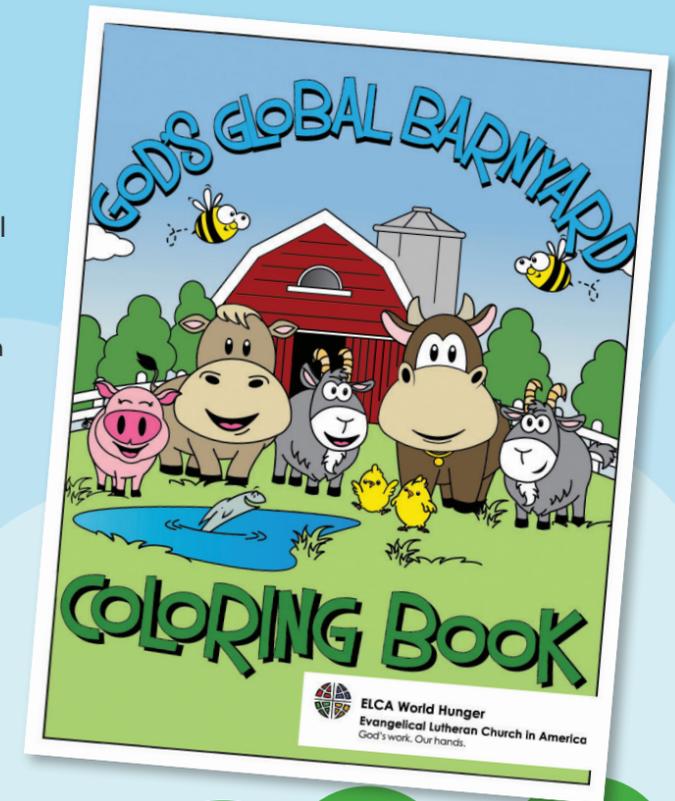


Saving in this piggy bank is easy!

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.

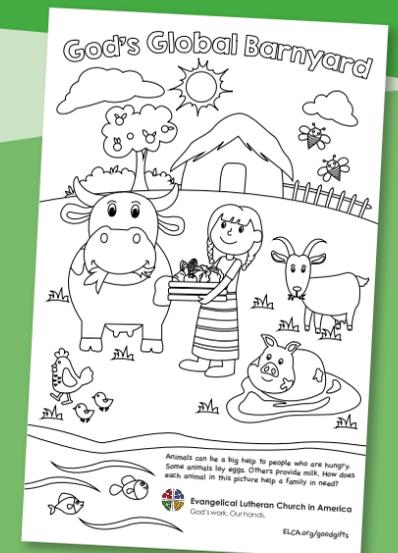


STICKERS

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

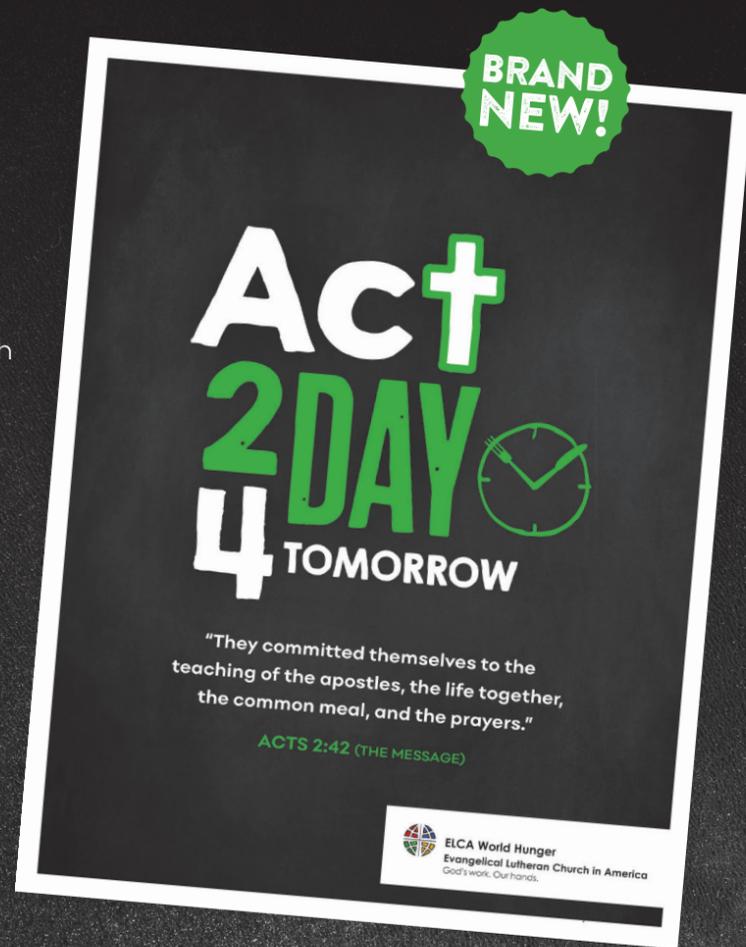
Distribute these coloring-sheet bulletin inserts to children during worship or Sunday school. The back side of the coloring sheet provides pictures and information about each animal.



Order free coin boxes, coloring books and sticker sheets at Resources.ELCA.org.

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.



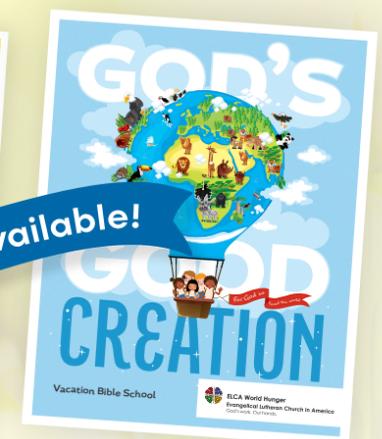
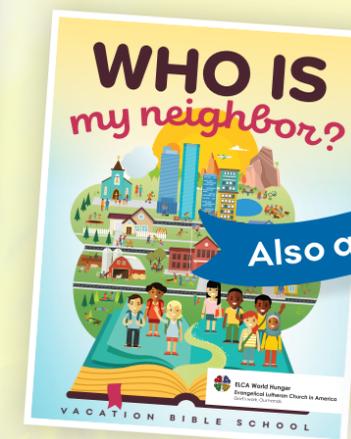
Download or order from ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "Hunger Ed" tab.

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

"On Earth As in Heaven" is a vacation Bible school study that helps children learn about hunger, hope and the work to which God calls us in the world. The five-day program focuses on the Lord's Prayer, with stories and activities related to hunger, health, peace and more. The five-day program includes sample schedules, music, skits, and snack and craft ideas.



A new vacation Bible school for 2021 will be available this fall.



"Who Is My Neighbor?" VBS

"God's Good Creation" VBS

ELCA GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE ORNAMENTS

1. **Order** free ornament packs at 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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