

Lifelines

For supporters of
ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Winter 2017

ELCA World Hunger is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to end hunger in the United States and around the world. ELCA.org/hunger

Little important person

Children hungry for knowledge in Peru

Raw talent

Gardening for the community in Michigan

A better cow for a better life

Going beyond food in Senegal

Together, we respond

Recovering from Hurricane Matthew



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God's work. Our hands.

Photo: David Joel



Laurie Wieschowski, the McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm's manager, picking tomatoes grown on the farm

Photo: David Joel



Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support more than 300 programs in the United States, programs to help put an end to hunger for good.

Photo: David Joel



Briane Brooks on the McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm

Raw talent

In the midst of a food desert, where no grocery stores sell fresh produce, McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm is meeting a critical need for residents of Muskegon, Mich.

McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, grows everything from radishes to tomatoes in the middle of the city and teaches adults and teens how to grow their own food.

During the summer, Laurie Wieschowski, the farm's manager, teaches middle schoolers the importance of weeding the farm and picking bugs off plants. The reward, says Laurie, comes when the produce grown is served at the public school for lunch.

"They get excited when they see the kale, lettuce and carrots they've been tending," Laurie said, adding that some students return after the session to volunteer at the farm.

This program also hires student interns who earn a stipend while learning how to promote urban gardening

and develop leadership skills. In a city where more than a quarter of the residents earn incomes below the federal poverty level, this is an important investment in the community's future.

High school senior Briane Brooks has been involved with the farm for two years, weeding, harvesting and talking to the farm's visitors. "I love the work," she said. "I love being involved in the community." As part of the Youth Empowerment Program, Briane is paid hourly, but for her, getting healthy food to people is the important goal.

"There is hunger because high food prices mean you can't get healthy options," she said. To ELCA World Hunger, she adds, "Your donors are involved in something much bigger than you'd ever believe. You are helping a hurt community."

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Briane and many residents of Muskegon now have access to fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables they need to thrive.



Photo: FEMA/Leif Skoogfors

Disaster Response



Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.



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Happy New Year, friend of ELCA World Hunger,

Welcome to 2017 – the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. 500 years ago, Martin Luther unwittingly began a reformation that would change church and society forever. But what does that mean for us today?

Luther's reforms emerged in a divided time of master and servant; rich and poor; landowner and tenant; those who could speak Latin, the language of the clergy, and those who could not – a community marked by the ever-present shadow of inequality among neighbors. And yet, even amid those divides, Luther preached that the gospel of Christ meant salvation and daily bread for all, especially as defined in the Fourth Petition of the Small Catechism.

The circumstances of Luther's time were certainly noteworthy but are not unique. Even today, we see division; as so many enjoy an abundance of food, 1 in 9 of our global neighbors is still experiencing chronic hunger.

As Lutherans, our faith tradition is built on the faith and courage of one zealous monk, but it's also built upon the shoulders and commitments of many more who share a vision for a just world where all are fed.

Through the vocations and creativity of individuals of goodwill, congregations, companions and partners around the world, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are at work doing just that – providing fresh food through community gardens in Michigan, educating and feeding school children in Peru, and improving incomes for families working with cows in Senegal.

May the spirit of the Reformation rekindle our hearts, strengthen our hands and enliven our minds for the next 500 years – so that *all* might have life abundantly.

With thanks for your ministry and partnership,

Mikka McCracken
 Director, ELCA World Hunger
 Planning and Engagement

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director,
ELCA World Hunger
and Disaster Appeal

Mikka McCracken

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Planning and Engagement

How to give

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 and mail to:
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 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Contact us

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 800-638-3522, ext. 2616

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Education and training



By removing barriers, children and adults are able to attend school and secure better opportunities for their future. Programs like literacy training and vocational education also help teens and adults secure jobs and increase their earning potential.



A student in a ceramics class



Students in the dining hall at the Help the Children Association School



Students performing a traditional Quechua dance

Huch´uy Runa (Little Important Person)

Every weekday morning, 120 elementary school children fill the dining hall at the Help the Children Association School to eat a warm breakfast. While each child has a different story, the children have one thing in common - they all come from an area of extreme poverty in and around the ancient Incan capital city of Cusco, Peru.

The school, known locally as Huch´uy Runa, began 31 years ago to meet the basic needs of the children in Cusco. In Quechua, "huch´uy" means little and "runa" means a well-rounded person who contributes to the well-being of the community. The two words combined, "huch´uy runa" mean "little important person." And the children of this city carry this identity with pride.

The school, with support from ELCA World Hunger, has been able to change the lives of many "little important person(s)" and their families for more than a decade. Through your gifts, the children of this city receive a primary education, meals and snacks, and training in trade skills that include carpentry, metalwork, pottery and weaving - skills they can use to support themselves and their families in the future.

Thanks to your support, the children in Peru are gaining lifelong skills. As one teacher shares, "[It] is like a family trying to equip the children to be able to survive and succeed in life, hoping to build a solid base on which they can stand."

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make projects like this one possible. Thank you.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

Agriculture



Community gardens and agricultural programs help families grow food to nourish themselves and build safer, healthier communities for the long term. These are some of the ways ELCA World Hunger accompanies communities as we work to put an end to hunger - for good.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

Income



Income-generating activities help families pay for essentials like food, medical costs and school fees, while microloans enable starting or upgrading small businesses. These and other long-term solutions to ending hunger and poverty are at the center of the programs supported by ELCA World Hunger.



ELCA World Hunger works in partnership with Fedannde Jolof, an animal husbandry center in Senegal, to crossbreed cows that produce 2.6 gallons of milk per day. The “better” cows help families on their way to food security.



Photo: Lutheran Church of Senegal/Development Services

A better cow for a better life

Ramata Ka is a dairy herder in Senegal on the west coast of Africa. She supports her family with the milk she sells. Cows are productive during the rainy season, but their milk production drops significantly during the region’s eight-month dry season. This loss of income means that sometimes Ramata’s family goes to bed hungry.

“I used to have a local cow that gave me milk to sell to take care of my family,” said Ramata. “But the money did not cover our food costs or the children’s education and medical needs.”

Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, the Senegal Lutheran Development Service worked with herders to create an animal husbandry center to help increase

milk production. By crossbreeding indigenous cattle with Holsteins and other breeds, the herders are able to sell plenty of milk year-round.

“Crossbred cows give three times more milk than local ones,” Ramata said. “This allows me to provide milk for my family, to sell some milk to the farming cooperative, and to transform some of it into butter oil, which I sell.” The cost savings and increased production mean herders have a sustainable answer to what was an annual problem.

When you give to ELCA World Hunger, you are helping herders like Ramata find long-term solutions to hunger. Thanks to your gifts, days without rain no longer mean days without food for Ramata and her family.



Together, we respond: Hurricane Matthew

In the first weeks of October 2016, Hurricane Matthew brought widespread destruction and catastrophic loss. Areas affected by the hurricane included the coasts of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and the Caribbean regions of Haiti, Cuba and the Bahamas. Reports indicate it was the deadliest Atlantic hurricane in more than a decade. Recovery from Hurricane Matthew will be long, but Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to be present in devastated communities for as long as it's needed.

Together, we are church, responding to the needs of our neighbors. Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wilmington, N.C., were not severely affected by the hurricane but were determined to help those nearby who were. They pooled resources together and were able to respond to the needs of their neighbor.

Pastor Mark Opgrand shares, "It started with the need, a few simple conversations, the right things falling into place and many generous hearts. When the need arises, we respond. That's what people of faith do."

Lutheran Disaster Response is responding in the U.S., Haiti and Cuba. In states hardest hit, collaboration is taking place with congregations, synods and affiliate disaster response organizations. Together, we are preparing to implement programs to assist survivors most vulnerable during long-term recovery. In Haiti, the path of Hurricane Matthew left destruction and severe demand for basic necessities. Lutheran Disaster Response, with local partners, is responding by providing emergency food, shelter and other needs. In Cuba, we are working alongside the Cuban Council of Churches to support food distribution, clean water restoration, house rehabilitation and other basic necessities.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to helping communities recover from Hurricane Matthew now and into the future. Your support is still needed in the wake of this disaster. Gifts make it possible for our church to respond - bringing help, hope and healing to neighbors in their time of need. Thank you.

LifeLines

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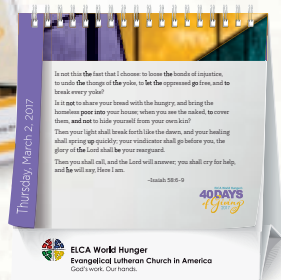
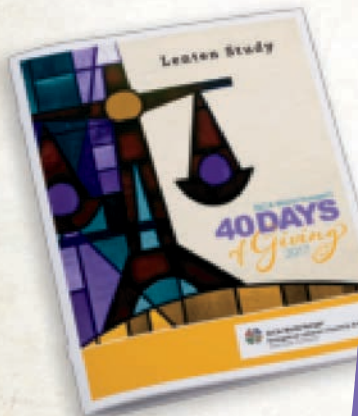
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JOIN IN THE JOURNEY THIS LENT!

ELCA World Hunger's **40 DAYS** *of Giving* 2017



ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving is a special opportunity for us to come together to lift up the church's hunger and poverty ministry during Lent. As we embark on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, what better time to reflect on the power of God's self-giving love that transforms and challenges each of us?

Through ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, we invite you and your congregation to pray, act and hope that through economic life and justice there truly will be sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger will help our global family access opportunities and earn a fair, sustainable living with dignity.



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Find special resources at
ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources.