

ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S
ACTIONGUIDE

for CONGREGATIONS



Photo: Couleecap Inc., an ELCA World Hunger grant recipient in Westby, Wis.

50
years



ELCA
World Hunger



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are called to share in God's work in the world. Through ELCA World Hunger, our church creatively and courageously works 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 will 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://www.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://www.facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger)

 [Instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger](https://www.instagram.com/ELCAWorldHunger)

TELL US

What is your congregation doing with ELCA World Hunger resources 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://www.facebook.com/ELCAWorldHunger).

LEAD

Do you want to become a Hunger Leader in 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://www.elca.org/subscribe) to sign up today.

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Set every peak and valley

Humming with the Word

the Lord is coming!

(ELW248)

Stories cut across generations. They show us the ways we belong and how we have an obligation to one another. They show us places where things look the same as they have before and where oppression reigns. And they show us where God breaks in to demand that things be different. The key is how we react when we hear the stories of our neighbors. Perhaps most challenging, gospel justice can enter into our communities when we make ourselves vulnerable enough to tell stories of where we have been hurt and where we have hurt others.

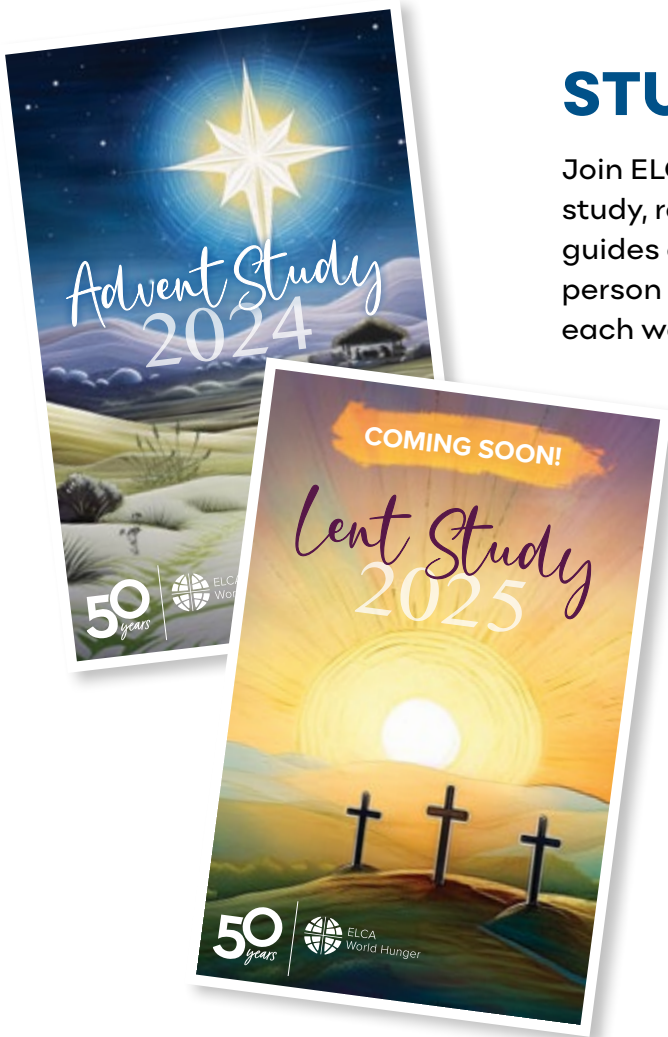
These are the places where the thrones of the powerful crumble.

This Advent and Lent, ELCA World Hunger invites you into a celebration of storytelling. Our study guides are designed for small groups or individual use and follow the lectionary texts for the Advent and Lent seasons.

Each session of the Advent and Lent study guides features a story of an ELCA World Hunger partner and explores the ways God is active in the world through their ministry. The guides then ask readers to consider where their own stories intersect with the life of that partner and God's story.

These study guides challenge readers to hear where God is active in the stories of others and to take the risk of telling their own stories in community.





STUDY GUIDES

Join ELCA World Hunger this Advent and Lent through study, reflection, prayer and worship. Use these guides during weekly worship or adult study groups, in person or online, or encourage members to read them each week of the season at home.



Download a free copy at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://www.ELCA.org/hunger/resources) under the "Seasonal" subcategory or order printed copies online at store.ELCA.org.



CALENDARS

Utilize ELCA World Hunger's new calendars throughout two of the church's most significant liturgical seasons, Advent and Lent. Each day's entry invites praise and reflection with Scripture, song, prayers and more as we celebrate the good news of Christ's birth and await the resurrection with hope in God's promised future.



Visit store.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.





50 years



“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”

—1 John 3:18

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. We are commemorating the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever.



Join us and be part of the story of our next 50 years together —
boldly and faithfully pursuing God’s promise of a just world where all are fed.
Find congregational resources at ELCA.org/WH50.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Rethink gift-giving with ELCA Good Gifts

The average American spends more than \$900 a year 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 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:



Advent tree

Decorate your congregation's Christmas tree with ornaments that represent donations to ELCA Good Gifts. Invite friends and family to take home an ornament as a reminder of the gift they'd like to give. Keep the tree full of ornaments to encourage participation and to celebrate the work the whole church is doing!



Visit store.ELCA.org to order a free pack of 34 assorted ornaments, or use a free pack of 10 matching ornaments to decorate a whole tree with bees, pigs or goats!

Good Gifts cards for Christmas and Easter

When you give an ELCA Good Gift in honor of a friend or loved one, send a card to tell them about it! Visit ELCA.org/GoodGifts to give online and personalize free, printed cards to be mailed to yourself or directly to your loved ones. You may also download a card to print at home or have cards delivered to recipients by email.





ELCA Good Gifts catalog

ELCA Good Gifts are a fun, interactive way to support ELCA World Hunger. Spread the word in your congregation that there's a different way to give this year! With more than 60 giving options, your members are sure to find gifts that inspire them to help people in need.

Popular ELCA GOOD GIFTS



Abundant community bundle

Your congregation can raise funds for an entire community. This bundle includes chickens, a goat, bees, fruit trees, seeds, agricultural tools and training, and more. Visit ELCA.org/GoodGifts to learn more about group gifts.

\$1,020



\$910 Climate resilience kit



\$750 Safe birth



\$30 Honeybees



\$30 Piglet



\$50 Goat

Get ready for Valentine's Day and Easter

Purchase ELCA Good Gifts-grams to honor a friend or family member on Valentine's Day or Easter. Or collect donations for ELCA Good Gifts-grams prior to Valentine's Day or Easter, either before or after worship, as a special way to celebrate the holiday while giving to ELCA World Hunger. Hand out the Valentine's Day-grams or stick the Easter-grams into plastic eggs.



Visit store.ELCA.org to order your Good Gifts-grams today.

“Climate and Hunger Toolkit”

This updated resource from ELCA World Hunger features a variety of activities to teach your group how our changing climate impacts hunger. With handouts, easy-to-use instructions, and opening and closing sections, the “Climate and Hunger Toolkit” is perfect for groups of any size.



“Health & Hunger Toolkit”

This toolkit will help introduce your group to the intersections between health and hunger through a variety of activities that range from low to high involvement. The toolkit includes the necessary materials for activities, discussion and additional resources.



Download these toolkits and others for free at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://www.elca.org/hunger/resources) under the “Toolkits” subcategory.



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.



Order posters for free at store.ELCA.org.

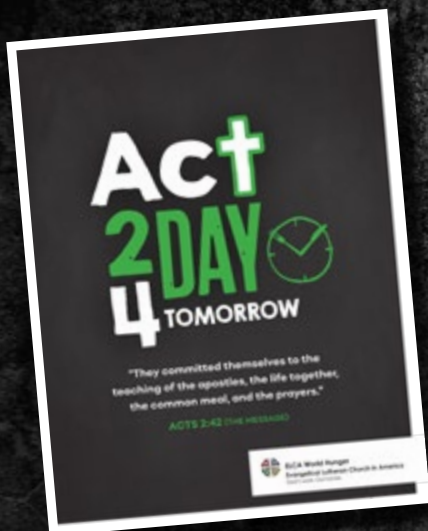
Housing guide

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 experienced and aspiring 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 Education" subcategory.



Act 2Day 4 Tomorrow

Looking for an overnight program for youth or fun learning activities for people of all ages? Spend your next Sunday school series learning about the root causes of hunger around the world. This interactive overnight program brings youth together to understand 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 the guide for free at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "Hunger Education" subcategory.

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." Its wisdom was harvested from ELCA congregations whose community gardens have become vital parts of their ministry. The guide offers practical tips on logistics, crafting a vision and incorporating your garden into the life of your congregation.



Also available in Spanish



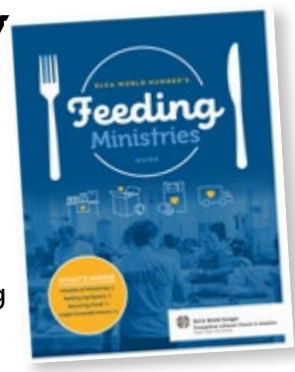
Download the guide for free at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "Hunger Education" subcategory.



Albin Hillert/LWF

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 store.ELCA.org.

Start a backpack food program

The Backpack Buddies program provides elementary school children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals a sack of healthy and easy-to-prepare foods. The sack is for the weekend when students are not at school and don't have access to the free-meal program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only reliable meals they eat during the week. This helpful guide contains tips for starting a backpack hunger relief program in your community.



Marilyn Nieves



Order our free guide at store.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 ELCA World Hunger videos or using ELCA World Hunger stories in your bulletins.

Subscribe to ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starters emails

The weekly email series “ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starters” contains reflections on the upcoming Sunday’s lectionary Scripture readings to inspire themes of hunger, poverty, justice and hope in your congregation’s sermons and educational activities.

 To receive “Sermon Starters” emails or liturgies from ELCA World Hunger, email hunger@elca.org.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- Take a special offering for ELCA World Hunger to address root causes of hunger in more than 65 countries, including the United States.
- Find ELCA World Hunger resources at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources) to educate or activate your congregation.
- Learn how your congregation can get involved in ELCA advocacy initiatives at [ELCA.org/advocacy](https://elca.org/advocacy).
- Plan an intergenerational activity! Using the tool kits available at [ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://elca.org/hunger/resources), create unique learning experiences for people of all ages in your congregation.
- Follow ELCA World Hunger on Facebook and Instagram to see more stories and updates about the work of ELCA World Hunger.

Special dates to consider:



**World Food Day —
Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024**

Join ELCA World Hunger and people around the world in raising awareness and taking action toward food security for all. With hunger rising around the world after a decade of steady decline, these efforts are more important than ever. Stay tuned for more news about an ELCA World Hunger virtual event on Oct. 15 to commemorate World Food Day.



**World AIDS Day —
Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024**

Donate, advocate and pray to fight HIV and AIDS; support those who live with HIV and AIDS; and mourn those who have died. Visit [ELCA.org/HIV](https://elca.org/HIV) to find worship resources and the ELCA’s “Message on AIDS and the Church’s Ministry of Caring,” as relevant today as when it was adopted in 1988.



**World Water Day —
Saturday, March 22, 2025**

Learn, donate, advocate and pray to ensure access to clean water for all.



**World Refugee Day —
Friday, June 20, 2025**

Learn how displacement intensifies hunger; take action by donating and speaking out for justice.

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 to connect your congregation with people and communities, in the United States and more than 60 other countries around the world, whose lives have been changed through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.



Check out 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.



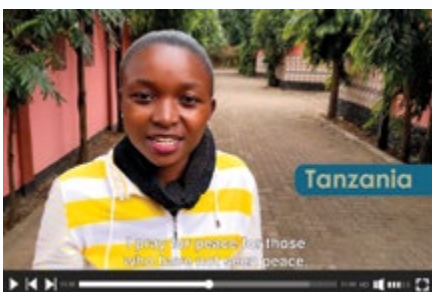
"Love in deed and truth | 50 years of ELCA World Hunger"



"East Boston Community Soup Kitchen"



"Pursuing Justice and Food Security in Brazil"



"A Prayer for the ELCA"



"We're Chicken Women!"
(The Manna From Heaven Story)



"Education Opens Doors for Young Women in Guatemala"

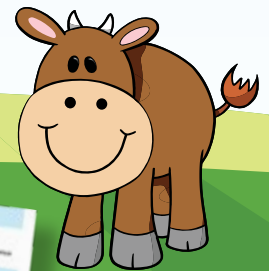
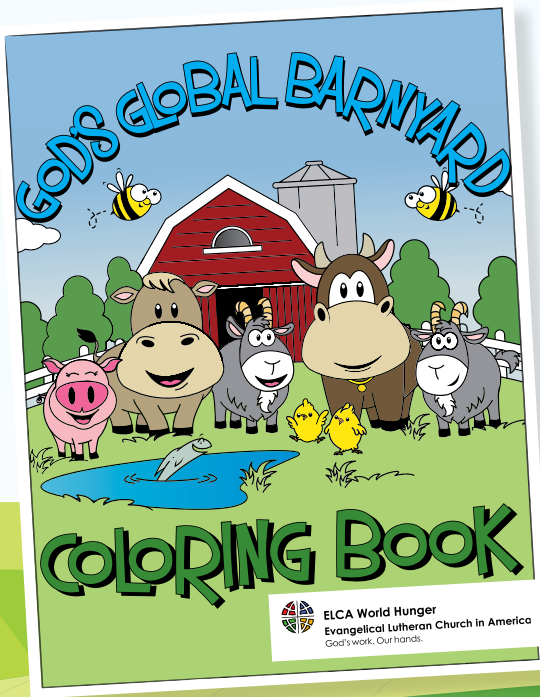
"God's Global Barnyard"

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.



Coloring bulletin insert and coloring book

Order these coloring sheets or coloring books for Sunday school or send them to families for fun at home. As children color the animals, teach them the significance of livestock in communities around the world. Pair these 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, teaching children about the difference an animal makes to a family in need.



Coin boxes

Encourage your congregation to support ELCA Good Gifts by taking this coin box 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.

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.



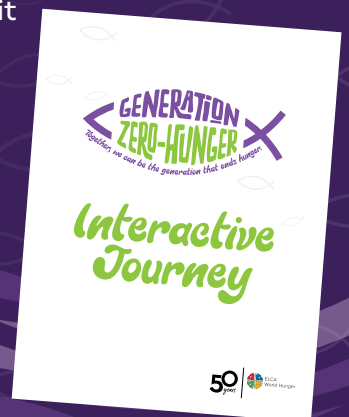
 Order free coin boxes, coloring books and sticker sheets at store.ELCA.org.



Generation Zero-Hunger

With this interactive role-playing guide, your youth group or congregation can experience the challenges faced by a family in Nepal as they seek a sustainable livelihood. In this guide you will find a list of character roles, a list of materials you should expect to use and setup instructions for the experience. While this was modeled after the setup at the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, we encourage you to be creative and adapt it for your own purposes.

 Order or download the free guide at store.ELCA.org.



Vacation Bible School programs

Bring one of ELCA World Hunger's Vacation Bible School programs to your congregation this summer! Helping children learn about hunger, hope and the work to which God calls us in the world is key to ending hunger for good. Each day of ELCA World Hunger's Vacation Bible School programs offers large- and small-group activities, crafts, games, snacks and more. Daily themes are drawn from projects supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

↓ Download supplemental materials including music, graphics and story pictures, and order or download the leader guide, at ELCA.org/hunger/resources under the "VBS" subcategory.



Not sure which one to use?

The VBS program booklet previews each of ELCA World Hunger's six Vacation Bible School programs and will help you select which one is right for your group or congregation.



NEW SEASONAL RESOURCES!

Set every peak and valley

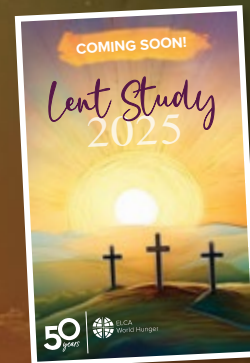
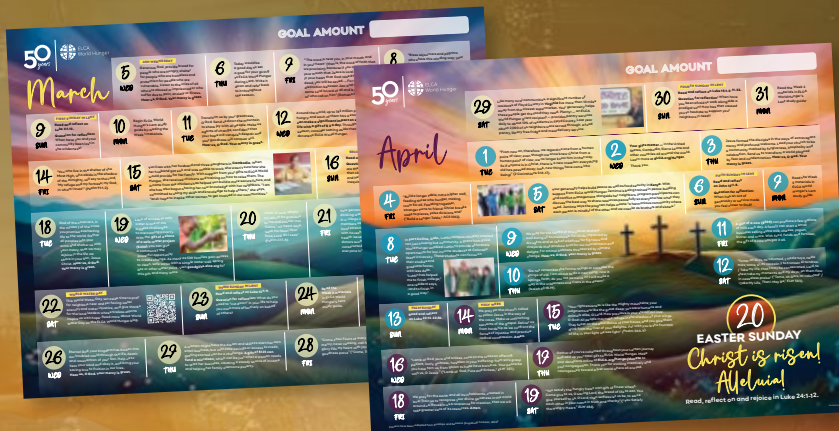
Humming with the Word

the Lord is coming!

(ELW248)



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