

Advent greetings from ELCA World Hunger!

This season, at a time of global suffering and anxiety, our team is inviting communities across the ELCA to make use of our collection of Advent activities, which we are naming after Richard Wilbur and David Hurd's hymn "A Stable Lamp Is Lighted" (ACS 910). This hymn evokes the tension of the moment, the desire for a place of one's own and our call to care for the stranger:

**A stable lamp is lighted
whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry.**



The simple act of making a hospitable, warm, cozy place — even in a stable — moves the sky, the stars and the stones to tremble. We invite your household to both make a cozy place and embrace your community's generous spirit through our ELCA World Hunger Advent calendar and study guide.

Advent Calendar

The calendar provides tools for warming your home's hearth and strengthening communities, at home and around the world, this season.

Study Guide

The study guide welcomes you, your congregation or your family to learn about the root causes of poverty and how the ELCA addresses them. The guide incorporates our new short documentary "Intersections: Justice Ministry With ELCA Partners."

We prayerfully invite your household and congregation to light their own stable lamp, to warm you for your ministry under the sky and the stars and among the crying stones. We hope you will consider welcoming your household, your congregation and your neighbors to join our church's work, building stronger communities around the world.

Visit **ELCA.org/WHAdvent** to download or order all these resources.



ELCA World Hunger



“Stocking the Streets” Bags

“Stocking the Streets” is an effort by ELCA World Hunger and your community to care for all our neighbors, some of whom lack a roof over their heads. A “Stocking the Streets” bag includes the items most frequently requested by individuals facing homelessness.

Post this list of items next to your Christmas tree or Advent calendar, along with the bag or bags you will fill. Go shopping — together with family, friends or your church community — early in the season for all the items on the list. Starting on the 12th day of Advent, put one item per day in the “Stocking the Streets” bag. In the days following Christmas, you will be ready to pass out your bags when needed or bring them to a local social services organization that works with unhoused folks.

Some notes as you prepare and give out your bags:

You can give these bags to individuals you meet who are homeless or donate them to a local organization that works with the homeless.

Feel free to contact local agencies working with homeless folks for suggested items that are more critical locally.

Do NOT give out money.

Gallon bags work well, but you can also consider sewing your own.

COLOR!



First aid kits



Hygiene wipes



New socks



Travel-sized rain poncho



Hand warmers



Restaurant gift card



Flashlight with batteries



Preloaded transit card



Resealable plastic bags



Emergency blanket



New underwear



Homemade snacks