

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" Overview and Ideas

*"Give us this day our daily bread;
may all the world be clothed and fed."*



Introduction

Every few seconds, a child dies from hunger-related causes. In a world of such abundant gifts, populated by millions who call Jesus "Lord", it is unacceptable that anyone should die for lack of food.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod World Hunger Task Force has developed this collection of resources for use by this synod's congregations, and for any community who wants to undertake a focused look at the issues of hunger in our world. The materials explore the four-fold aims of the ELCA World Hunger program as a comprehensive and appropriate Christian response to the scourge of hunger. Divided into five sections for use especially during the season of Lent, the materials may also be used in other ways at other times of the year.

The weekly themes include:

1. Addressing the Root Causes of Poverty
2. Relief—Responding to the Immediate Needs of People
3. Development—Ensuring Sustainable Livelihoods
4. Education—Learning to Love Our Neighbors as Ourselves
5. Advocacy—Proclaiming the Lord's Favor for All

We hope you find these materials useful and engaging for your ministry, and inspiring in the fight against hunger...so that all may eat.

Options for Use

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" was designed with flexibility in mind. The materials are divided into five units for use during the season of Lent. Some possible scenarios...

- A congregation offers a lay-led Bible study on Sunday mornings in Lent. During worship, a lay member (or pastor) offers a hunger-focused children's sermon.
- A congregation enjoys the drama/dialogue sermons during or in addition to the usual sermon time on Sunday mornings.
- A congregation offers a mid-week evening program on Wednesdays. The program begins with a simple meal, followed by a Bible study. A short Lenten Worship service concludes the evening.
- A congregation offers a mid-week noontime, brown-bag lunch Bible study and shares a brief worship service.

- Two (or more) congregations collaborate to take turns hosting a mid-week or Sunday evening program. The hosting congregation provides a simple meal, while members of the other congregation provide the program.
- Five congregations work together to offer the five programs of this series. One leadership team from each church travels to present the same program five times, once at each participating congregation’s mid-week or Sunday evening gathering.

Use as many or as few of the resources as you like, however you see fit! See the following for more ways to expand your Lenten program offerings.

Meal Ideas

Many congregations gather for mid-week programs during Lent around food...a natural community-building event! A program focused on our calling to respond to the world’s hunger can still begin with sharing food together. A list of various “table prayers” are provided under “Worship Resources” to offer before (and/or after) a meal. Here are some ideas:

- Try keeping all of your meals as simple as possible...like bread and soup, or rice and beans. Resist the temptation for cooks to want to “out-do” each other with fancy food!
- If you normally have a potluck meal, consider challenging participants to bring a dish that costs less than \$3.00 to make, or one that costs less than \$.50 per serving. Encourage meatless dishes, since much of the world lives without access to meat.
- If you normally enjoy a full meal at each program, consider having a “solidarity meal” one week, where all that is served are bowls of rice, and the money that would have been otherwise spent for dinner is designated for World Hunger. Discuss what it would be like to only have rice to eat all day, every day, and not enough to fill you up.
- Consider planning a “hunger meal” program, where the meal is apportioned to participants as food is distributed to members of different socio-economic classes around the world. (For an example, go to: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/For-Congregations/Activities/Hunger-Meals.aspx>.)
- Consider hosting a “stone soup” supper...inviting people to bring a vegetable or two to add to a large, boiling pot of water. (Plan ahead for this one!) For the “Stone Soup” story, go to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_soup.
- If you normally enjoy a full meal at each program, consider expanding the menu to include dishes from various countries around the world...simple, inexpensive meals are best. Try a recipe from “More-With-Less Cookbook” or “Extending the Table: A World Community Cookbook” (both are available from Amazon).

Hunger Fundraising Ideas

“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread” is not primarily about fundraising for World Hunger—it’s about raising awareness, concern, and compassion for those who suffer from hunger. But raising funds for World Hunger an important way Christians may respond with compassion for the hungry. Here are some fundraising ideas to accompany a Lenten program on hunger:

- Order enough free coin boxes from ELCA World Hunger for your Sunday School, mid-week program participants, or whole congregation. Encourage people to save their spare change or contribute to their boxes at times when they’re feeling thankful for how God’s blessed them. Receive all these contributions at a special offering at your last gathering, or at worship on Palm Sunday. Order free coin boxes and other resources here: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources.aspx>.
- Invite people to take up a Lenten discipline...“giving up” something they’d normally indulge in, or committing to a positive addition to their spiritual life, like daily prayer or Bible reading. If they save money through their “giving up”, invite them to contribute the savings to World Hunger. Or some may want to self-impose a “penalty” contribution any time they waver from their adopted discipline.
- Take orders for “fair trade” coffee, chocolate, or handicrafts benefiting small farmers and craftspeople before middlemen. Find details and resources at: <http://www.lwr.org/fairtrade/index.asp>.
- Take up a “noisy” offering on the Sundays during Lent: pass around metal pans or bowls to collect loose change from people’s pockets or purses. Invite people to bring coins from home to add to the collection.
- Instead of a monetary offering, invite mid-week program participants to bring canned goods for a local food pantry or needy families. Offer suggestions for items that may be especially needed, and a reminder not to bring outdated foods.
- Challenge people to donate \$.25 for every faucet in their house (remembering people who have little access to clean water), another \$.25 for every chair (remembering people who hunger), and another \$.25 for every bed (remembering people who have no safe place to lay their head at night).
- Hold a “World’s Best X” contest...homemade bread, chili, cake or cookies, etc...and invite participants to “vote” for their favorite with a contribution to World Hunger. (Distribute samples of each food entry, and place a cup or jar next to each to receive the “votes”.) Tally the total for each entry, and award the winner a “fabulous prize”. Donate all “vote” dollars to World Hunger.
- Challenge the congregation to raise a set figure for World Hunger by a particular date...aim high! “\$500 by May 1”, “\$1,000 by Easter”, “\$5,000 by Pentecost!” To “sweeten the pot”, pledge something outrageous will happen if the goal is met...Pastor (or youth advisor, council president, congregational matriarch/patriarch) will shave his/her head, grow/shave his beard, dye her/his hair green, wear a kilt/toga/hated sports team merchandise, kiss a pig, etc. Use your imagination!
- For a helpful list of fundraising ideas and principles, go to: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/For-Congregations/Fund-Raising-Ideas.aspx>

Contributors

This series is a project of the 2010 World Hunger Task Force of the Upper Susquehanna Synod (chair: Rev. Carla Volland; members: Rev. Sarah Hershberger, Kathy Kaufman, Rev. Erwin Roux, Clissie Sheitler, Rev. Beth Ann L. Stone). Contributing writers include these Upper

Susquehanna Synod members and friends: Rev. Gunther Bernhart, Rev. Catrina Ciccone, Rev. Theodore Cockley, Rev. Eric Deibler, Rev. Sarah Hershberger, Rev. Detlef Huckfeldt, Kathy Kaufman, Rev. John Koons, Marissa Harris Krey, Rev. Erwin Roux, Rev. Breen Sipes, Rev. Patrick Sipes, Rev. Beth Ann L. Stone, Clissie Sheitler, Rev. Carla Volland. *We give thanks to God for their talents and generosity in sharing them for the sake of hungry people everywhere.*

Related links

Explore the ELCA World Hunger website to learn more about the problem of hunger:

- Create your own learning experience in the area of hunger education that interests you most: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/For-Congregations/Hunger-Education-Toolkits.aspx>
- Hunger facts, hunger “by the numbers” in the world, in the US, in children: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/Hunger-Facts.aspx>
- Stories of how donations to World Hunger are making a difference in peoples’ lives: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Stories.aspx>
- Play “Hunger Jeopardy”, a downloadable game designed to test your knowledge of hunger issues: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/For-Congregations/Activities/Jeopardy.aspx>
- Find resources for exploring hunger education with children, youth, and adults: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/For-Congregations/Generational-Materials.aspx>
- Download a quiz to test your knowledge of hunger issues: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/For-Congregations/Activities/Quiz.aspx>
- Learn more about how ELCA World Hunger is helping to fight malaria and HIV/AIDS: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Our-Work/HIV-and-AIDS-and-Malaria.aspx>

Get the latest news on speaking out for people who are hungry in Pennsylvania at the LAMPa website (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania): <http://lamp.org/>.

How rich are you? Enter your annual income in the calculator on this website, and find out how you rate compared to the rest of the world’s population: <http://www.globalrichlist.com/>.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Learn more about them at: <http://www.bread.org/>.