

“Bring Home the Bacon!”

ELCA World Hunger Advent Resources for Worship and Home



Hunger is a reality that faces thousands across our state and millions across our country and world every single day. With this in mind, the Sending Team of the WND Synod has designated the Advent Season as a time when congregations are encouraged to lift up the important work of ELCA World Hunger in fighting hunger within our local communities and across the world.

Congregations are encouraged to take up a special offering for ELCA World Hunger throughout Advent using the theme **“Bring Home the Bacon!”** for World Hunger. Below are several resources for you to utilize during worship or other Advent programming.

Ways To Participate:

- Order cardboard piggy banks www.elca.org for all families in your congregation and invite them to fill their pigs up during the week!
- Then bring those offerings to worship and put them in a larger piggy bank (directions attached).
- You can also make copies of the ‘pig page’ in the God’s Global Barnyard coloring book (also found in the ELCA website), and encourage families and individuals to buy a pig for \$30 this Christmas season as an alternative gift through ELCA Good Gifts. Then color the ‘pig page’ and hang around church!
- Include prayers for those who are hungry during your worship service, as well as liturgy pieces that raise awareness of hunger.
- Plus, the many ideas listed below!

Let us join together in eradicating hunger and advocate for those Jesus came to love and feed!

The following liturgy is composed of prayers and litanies from different hunger resources, Sundays and Seasons, or written by Pastor Taryn Montgomery.

Confession & Forgiveness:

L: God of Creation, out of chaos you brought light, life, and love to the earth.

C: Have mercy on us for shutting our eyes to the beauty of your handiwork.

L: God of Abundance, you provide creation with enough food and drink for all people.

C: Have mercy on us for not inviting all to your table.

L: God of Compassion, every day your children cry out from the depths of empty stomachs and oppressed hearts. You hear their cries.

C: Have mercy on us when we shut out the cries of our neighbors, and listen only to the tune of our own lives.

L: God of Action, you call us all to advocate for those who are hungry and poor.

C: Have mercy on us for our disinterest and neglect.

L: In Christ we have been given a new life steeped in abundance, that we might share with those in need. Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every sin and gives you a new heart and a new spirit for the work of the Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day Options:

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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- or -

Lord, we greatly rejoice: our souls exult in you. You cause the earth to bring forth food: we eat and are glad. And we beg you to cause righteousness to grow forth from the world that all peoples may live in strength and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Share Your Bread, copyright 2000, ELCA, page 13

- or -

Blessed are you, O Lord our God. Like a mother hen shielding her chicks, you nurture and protect us. We praise you for your care: blessed be God forever! Gather all the hungry and homeless, O loving God, under the warmth of your wings, and so give life to the world, that your name be praised now and forever. Amen.

Prayers of the People Options:

Let us pray for the world, those in need and all of God's creation.

God of life, we give you thanks for the gifts of creation. You have given us plenty – the land, the sky, the sea, the air we breathe. Help us to share these resources, so that more of the world may be clothed and fed.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of abundance, help us create a world where tables are overflowing with good food and drink for everyone. As a church united, let us rejoice at your banquet where all people are invited and welcomed, washed and fed, forgiven and chosen.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, let your people rejoice with faces wiped free of tears, minds unbound from disgrace, bodies freed from suffering, and souls restored. (*Especially we pray for . . .*)

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God the advocate, we thank you for the work and ministry of ELCA World Hunger. Help us to all see ourselves as part of the solution to hunger in our world, that by working together we can advocate for those whose voices go unheard and their stories untold.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of salvation, let those who wait for you rejoice with all the saints, whose names are in the book of life and who now sit at the great banquet feast with you.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free to care for the hungry, poor, suffering, and oppressed, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

- or -

In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for those who are hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for those who are full.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for those whose voices are strong.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for those whose voices have been silenced.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for all those who gather on this day, in this place, and across the globe, hungry and full, speaking and silent.

That, together, we may raise our voices against hunger and injustice. Amen.

From Bread for the World Sunday Reflection Resource, 2007

Prayer After Communion:

O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

Amen.

OTHER WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Hymn Suggestions:

Let Streams of Living Justice, ELW 710

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service, ELW 712

We Are Called, ELW 720

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth in Spirit, ELW 538

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love, ELW 708

Christ, Be Our Light, ELW 715

For the Fruit of All Creation, ELW 670

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ, ELW 674

We Come to the Hungry Feast, ELW 479

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart, ELW 484

Special offering: Designate a certain portion of your offering on Sunday or Wednesday nights to benefit ELCA World Hunger.

Noisy offering: Involve children in taking a noisy offering. Decorate milk jugs or jars with paint, stickers or fabric. Use the jars to collect coins. Invite the children to shake the jars and make a joyful noise in the fight against hunger.

Bulletin inserts: Please visit <http://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger> for bulletin inserts telling the stories of those who benefit from the world of ELCA World Hunger.

Videos: Share one of the promotional videos for ELCA World Hunger as part of the sermon or announcements. These can also be found at: <http://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger>

Children's Sermon and Dramas: Ideas for hunger oriented Children's sermons and dramas can be found at the Upper Susquehanna Synod's website: <http://www.uss-elca.org/for-congregations/world-hunger/2011-world-hunger-lenten-series>

The Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA has done a lot of work with ELCA World Hunger. You can find many more resources on their website at: <http://www.uss-elca.org/for-congregations/world-hunger/2011-world-hunger-lenten-series>

Ideas for Worshippers at Home or at Church:

SNAP-style Budget: Eat for a week on a SNAP-style budget: eat and drink on \$4.20 a day. See www.feedingamerica.org/snapchallenge for more information and a discussion guide.

Hunger Worksheets: Activities for people of all ages to see just how devastating hunger can be to those who suffer. <http://www.bread.org/hunger-no-more/children-and-youth.html>

Movie Night: Host a movie night and screen "A Place at the Table," available on DVD and Blu-Ray at Amazon.com and many other sources. A discussion guide and other resources are available online at www.takepart.com/place-at-the-table.

Hunger Meal: Host a hunger meal at your church to show the disparity of resources and hunger across the world.

More information at http://lutheran_peace.tripod.com/HungerAwarenessMeal9d.pdf