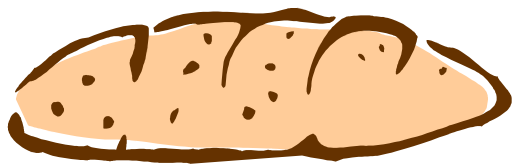


PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS AND PASS IT ON TO HUNGER/SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAMS!

January 2012

ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network



Daily Bread

Send in Hunger Appeal Contributions TODAY

It is critical that all Fiscal Year 2011 contributions to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (WHA) get sent in NOW.

The goal for the WHA in 2011 is \$18.5 million. All on-line end-of-year gifts have not been tallied and checks are still arriving from congregations and synods, but we are a bit behind!

Make sure your congregation's treasurer/bookkeeper mails ALL hunger dollars to the synod office (or the national office) as soon as possible—no later than January 30. DON'T ASSUME ANYTHING. It's always good to check. Remember, about 60% of WHA contributions come from congregations.



Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network Core Team

Carol McDivitt (chair)
970.669.4090

mcdivittc@mindspring.com

Kay & John Bengston
303.627.2805

jk Bengston@msn.com

Joshua Bruns
307.322.9423

pastorjoshua@wyomingwireless.com

Earl Matson
970.586.2369

matsonen@aol.com

Diana Stigleman
303.954.9646

stigleperson@gmail.com



Advocacy: Seeking a Just System for All

"Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Res-

cue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." (Psalm 82:3-4)

This quote on the main page of the advocacy section of the ELCA website frames the journey into a whole batch of links that explain why and how this church engages in work that seeks justice for everyone—especially the poor and hungry.

Even though about 20 cents of every WHA dollar works to address domestic hunger and poverty and many congregations also support a plethora of local food banks and other agencies, **the food provided by all the charities in America amounts to just 6 percent of the food people receive from federal food programs.** (Source: Bread for the World) ELCA advocacy offices in Washington, D.C., and 18 states have been working to protect funding for poverty-focused assistance in this era of tight federal and state budgets.

There is, indeed, a role for churches and other non-governmental charities to play in the struggle against rising poverty rates in America, but the *basic system needs to work for all people in this nation.* If you want to be part of the E-advocacy network, go to www.elca.org/hunger and click on the Advocacy tab to sign up for alerts and get other information.

State Legislatures: New Challenges in a New Year

The Rocky Mountain Synod has TWO Lutheran Advocacy Ministry (LAM) offices: one in New Mexico and one in Colorado. Check out these upcoming events if you live close enough to participate.

- + **2012 Bishop's Legislative Luncheon** (LAM-New Mexico) on Thursday, February 2, at 12:30 pm, in Santa Fe. An Issues Briefing begins at 9:00 am. Email lutheranadvocacy@yahoo.com or call (505) 984-8005 for more information.
- + **Faith Advocacy Day 2012** (LAM-Colorado) on Monday, February 20, 9:00 am — 2:00 pm at the Colorado History Museum in Denver. Email bwood@rmselfca.org or call (303) 777-6700 for more information or register on line at www.lam-co.org.

1-2-3 CONTACT!

Congregational hunger leaders should make sure they (and others who work with them) are receiving the two ELCA World Hunger Resource Packets and the quarterly issues of the *LifeLines* newsletter. Go to www.elca.org/hunger/contact or call 800/638-3522, ext. 2764, to sign up.

Lutheran Church of the Master Invited Members to Take Jesus Out to Dinner

The always-creative hunger team at Lutheran Church of the Master (Lakewood, CO), led by Joan Jacobson and Ann Rutkofsky, conducted a six-week appeal last fall to encourage members to support the World Hunger Appeal while dining out.

A dining display and map on which participants could locate their restaurants reinforced the announcements and skits prepared by the team. A special envelope was designed for people to enclose their contributions and indicate where Jesus went to dinner!

The program basics were described in this sample announcement: *The gospels tell us that Jesus enjoyed a good meal and that he told us that whatever we do for those in need, we do for him. So the Samaritan Ministry invites you to "take Jesus out to dinner." The next time you eat at a restaurant, figure out the cost of an entrée and beverage and place that amount in one of these envelopes and place the envelope on the "Feed Jesus, Feed the World" display....Check the map and if your favorite restaurant is not marked, then it is your turn to take Jesus out to dinner.*

The six-week program raised over \$1400 at last count...however, people go out to eat all year. Maybe this idea could be a continuing discipline that reminds all of us that we can enjoy a meal out and remember those who do not have enough to eat at the same time.



I took Jesus out to dinner at: _____ in _____
(name of restaurant) (city)

Make your check payable to:
 Lutheran Church of the Master (Memo Line: World Hunger Appeal)

Your donation is tax deductible if you give your name: _____

Get Your Can to Church!



Pastor Garrett Struessel of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (Lakewood, CO) was browsing Bible Studies on line and found an idea to share from the Presbyterian Women. "Get Your Can to Church" is a catchy double entendre title of a campaign to collect cans and other items for a local food bank or pantry.

The Adobe PDF document filled with ideas for the campaign can be downloaded from the hunger page of the synod's website: www.rmselfca.org/hunger. Planning tips, scripts for announcements, and directions for making a can costume are included. Maybe your congregation has someone who would love to be Suzanne Can or Minute Maid!

How Can We Help You?

The Rocky Mountain Synod's Hunger Network is a web of lay and rostered congregational contacts who work to increase awareness about the realities of hunger and poverty and to raise money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. It's that simple...and that complicated in the wide geography of this synod!

The Core Team of the network is a group of individuals committed to helping congregations and their contact people do this important and life-saving work. As the team plans for activities in 2012, we are always open to hearing from YOU.

What support do you need to do the job you have taken on in your congregation? Are there resources you would like to have us develop or find and make accessible on the synod's website? Do you want to host a training workshop for hunger leaders in your area? Would a WebEx training session be helpful? Send any ideas and requests to Carol McDivitt (mcdivittc@mindspring.com or 970.669.4090).

Lent Begins on February 22nd

Lent and Easter are WHA emphasis times in many congregations. Check for resources on the hunger website (www.elca.org/hunger) and watch for the next issue of *Congregation Connections* for more ideas.



How do you raise awareness and MONEY for the World Hunger Appeal in your congregation?

How do you encourage advocacy and simple living?

Send your stories and ideas and PICTURES to Carol McDivitt (mcdivittc@mindspring.com)

for the next issue of the *Daily Bread*.

The deadline is March 1—don't miss your chance to be in print.