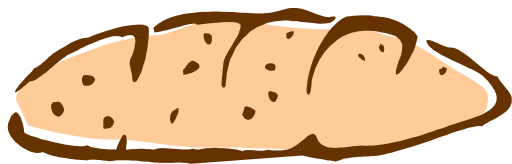


July 2011

ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network



# Daily Bread

## Enjoying Your Peas? Why Not Share?

There is a children's book about little peas who eat a steady diet of desserts so they can grow up to be very sweet. The father of a two-year-old who loves this book went to the Farmer's Market recently to get fresh vegetables...including pea pods.



Back at home, they sat together on the kitchen floor. The daughter squealed with delight as they opened each pod and counted the peas inside and then enjoyed the amazingly sweet flavor of fresh peas!

Summer is the season of gardens and fresh vegetables that actually taste like real food. As Nancy Michaelis noted in a recent posting on the *Hunger Rumbblings* blog, soon gardeners will be taking their excess produce to workplace kitchenettes, church fellowship halls, and neighbors. She asks: Why is it that some are hungry at this time of year when so many others have food to give away?

If you are a gardener, there is a way you can help feed people who have little or no access to fresh vegetables. Ample Harvest is an organization that connects gardeners with food pantries that accept fresh produce.

Gardeners can search by zip code or address to find pantries nearby that will accept their excess produce. Lots of information and helpful resources are available at [www.ampleharvest.org](http://www.ampleharvest.org).

If you are associated with a food pantry, ask the pantry to register. It's free and only takes a few minutes. The registration form includes a space where a pantry can specify things like types of produce they accept, the days and/or times of the week they will accept donations, etc.

If you are a gardener, donate your excess produce and spread the word!!

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### 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](http://www.elca.org/hunger/contact) or call 800/638-3522, ext. 2764, to sign up.

## Does the Federal Budget Really Matter?

In this time of intense debate over federal debt and deficits, the stakes for hungry and poor people are incredibly high. Approximately one out of six Americans experience food insecurity today. In many parts of the world, malnutrition and disease are increasing at a rapid pace.

The ELCA Washington, D.C., advocacy office is working hard to influence budget decisions that reflect our understanding of the gospel and the social statements of this church. Here are some actions YOU can encourage:

- + Learn more about how the Federal budget affects people in this country and around the world. "Why the Federal Budget Matters" is an e-mail advocacy campaign to educate and inspire people to engage in the federal budget debate. Throughout the 112th Congressional Session, the office will outline the concerns of people affected by potential federal budget cuts. Go to the [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger) website and click on the Advocacy tab to sign up for E-Advocacy alerts and other information.
- + If your congregation is a summer food service program site or houses an after-school program that provides healthy snacks, has a community garden that provides vegetables or fruits that help feed children, serves lunches at a Vacation Bible School program, or has a backpack ministry — share that information with [Jodi.Slaterry@elca.org](mailto:Jodi.Slaterry@elca.org) (or 202.626.7947). The Washington office is looking for stories that illustrate childhood nutritional need and how Lutherans are helping to fill it.

# Domestic Hunger Grants Help Congregations and Agencies

A portion of every World Hunger Appeal donation is set aside for domestic relief and development projects and community organizing endeavors. The 2012 cycle is undergoing a few modifications, but the application information should be on the website soon. Checks should reach programs by February of 2012.

Encourage an agency or congregation to apply for one of these grants. Currently, domestic hunger dollars are stocking shelves of food pantries, helping to prevent homelessness, providing job training, and helping communities organize to address issues that keep people in poverty or hunger.

Keep checking [www.elca.org/hunger/domestichungergrants](http://www.elca.org/hunger/domestichungergrants) for the most up-to-date information or contact [Johnnie.Thompson@elca.org](mailto:Johnnie.Thompson@elca.org) (800.638.3522 ext. 2693).

**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 to Carol McDivitt ([mcdivittc@mindspring.com](mailto:mcdivittc@mindspring.com)) for the next issue of the *Daily Bread*.**

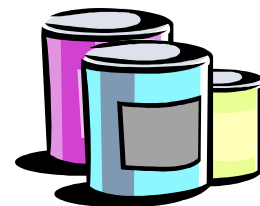
**The deadline is September 1—don't miss your chance to be in print.**

## How Will Your Community Mark the Tenth Anniversary of 9-11?

Bethany Lutheran Church (Cherry Hills Village, CO) is spearheading a major ecumenical effort in the Denver area to raise \$120,000 and collect 120,000 pounds of food for Metro-CareRing.

Launched on June 1, *Avenues of Hope: Hunger Stops Here (9.10.11)* is a community movement to eradicate hunger by educating, motivating, and encouraging everyone to give. Go to <http://hope91011.blogspot.com> to check out all the excitement!

What a great way to mark the anniversary of a dark day in our history and bring hope to so many who are suffering from hunger. Could you organize your community to host a similar event?



## Fundraising...It Can Be Easier Than You Think!



Many resources are available on the [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger) website and in *LifeLines* and Resource Packets. There are also ELCA World Hunger blogs and social networking communities, email newsletters and alerts, Tool Kits, sermon starters, and ready-to-use stories and facts.

The Rocky Mountain Synod's Hunger Network also has resources and ideas to share. Just check the [www.rmselfca.org/hunger](http://www.rmselfca.org/hunger) website or contact Carol McDivitt ([mcdivittc@mindspring.com](mailto:mcdivittc@mindspring.com)) for ideas.

All the resources in the world don't help...however...if they don't get used! As you plan activities for the rest of the year, here are a couple of guidelines and ideas for raising money for ELCA World

Hunger:

- + Remember that people want to give and serve on behalf of people living in hunger and poverty. Our church has a generous heart, and ELCA World Hunger is one of our most trusted and beloved ministries. Your gifts make you a partner in a global movement to end hunger—how exciting!
- + Frequency is more effective than intensity. This means that, generally, you will be more successful if you find ways to lift up the ELCA World Hunger Appeal frequently throughout the year than if you focus on only one big "Hunger Sunday." Use *Congregation Connections* and worship ideas on the hunger website to make it easy to plan for the Sundays and seasons where lectionary texts relate to hunger and justice.
- + Use as many information channels as you can to tell the story of ELCA World Hunger and invite people to give: worship bulletins, newsletters, worship announcements, bulletin boards, display tables, email announcements, educational programs, hands-on projects, alternative giving fairs, ETC.
- + Have ELCA World Hunger offering envelopes in the pews every Sunday AND in boxes of offering envelopes. This really works and helps communicate to visitors that your congregation cares about making a difference in our world.
- + Congregations that are strong supporters of the hunger appeal are also involved in many outreach ministries. Awareness and generosity beget more awareness and generosity. That's how it works in God's kingdom!

### Is the Money You Raise Getting to the World Hunger Appeal?

At the synod assembly in May, several voting members were surprised to find that their congregations had no WHA gifts of record in 2010. It may be a good idea to check with the counters and the treasurer/bookkeeper to make sure all hunger appeal offerings are recorded and the money is sent to the synod office right away. Gifts need to be clearly identified as coming from your congregation in order to show up in the year-end report.