



# Daily Bread

## The Hunger Network Needs Contacts!

A long-standing goal of the Hunger Network's Core Team is to have at least one lay contact in every congregation. Trying to keep track of these contacts so we can get information sent to the right people is quite a challenge.

If your congregation's contact person has changed or if you would like to have more than one person on our contact list, please send us an update.

We need the name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of any and all congregational contacts. **The information should be emailed to Carol McDivitt ([mcdivitt@mindspring.com](mailto:mcdivitt@mindspring.com)).** Thanks for your help!

### Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network Core Team

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*Contact us for ideas and help.  
We also offer to consult, teach,  
speak and preach!*

### What is the job of a congregational hunger contact?

- Learn about issues of hunger and poverty and the story of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal
- Communicate with the pastor, congregational council, and appropriate committees to offer help and encouragement to address the reality of poverty and to promote the ELCA hunger program
- Organize (with helpers!) hunger awareness and fundraising activities in the congregation
- Learn about advocacy and organize advocacy opportunities for church members
- Order and distribute materials to the appropriate congregational leadership (worship, youth, education, stewardship, social concerns, etc.)
- Find outside speakers or people in the congregation to help inform members about hunger issues
- Provide world hunger vignettes and bulletin inserts for newsletters and bulletins
- Provide opportunities for giving (such as Lent, Easter, Summer Sundays, Autumn Holidays, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas)
- Make sure the church treasurer knows where to send hunger monies
- Pray that, by the compassion of Christ for poor and suffering people, each congregation may be inspired to give in response to His love

### Need Some Training and Inspiration???

The members of the Core Team are always looking for ways to support hunger appeal work in congregations. How could we help you?

- ✓ Provide a speaker for an educational forum or event and/or preach during worship services.
- ✓ Consult with committees and give you ideas for setting up displays, mission fairs, alternative giving events, etc.
- ✓ Provide workshops for hunger contacts and social ministry committees—especially if there are several congregations in your geographical area interested in this possibility.
- ✓ Help fund travel to events like the Ending Hunger Summit. Save these two possible dates for this year: September 25 or October 2.

**Contact us to discuss what might be helpful to YOU!**

## Hunger Education Toolkits Are Only a Click Away

ELCA World Hunger Toolkits provide resources you can adapt to your particular need and the interests of your congregation. You will feel well-prepared to lead a learning experience on hunger or hunger-related topics. The resource is practical, easy to use, and intergenerational.



Go to [www.elca.org/hunger/toolkits](http://www.elca.org/hunger/toolkits) and start designing your educational plan. Each theme includes activities and conversations as well as devotional materials and opportunities to consider personal responses to what has been learned. Currently, there are four topics:

- ✓ **ELCA World Hunger Basics.** Good for an introduction to the mission and ministry of ELCA World Hunger.
- ✓ **Hunger and Climate Change Connections.** Explore the intersections between climate change and hunger.
- ✓ **Disease and Hunger Connections.** Explore the connections between disease and hunger.
- ✓ **Food and Hunger Connections.** Explore the complex relationships between food and hunger.

All the units have options for low, medium, or high level of content and can be tailored to fit specific time frames.



## Want to Duplicate the Active Workshop on Water Enjoyed at the Middle School Youth Gathering?

If your congregation had students and sponsors who attended the Middle School Youth Gathering, you may have heard about the creative and interactive workshop offered on the serious lack of available safe water for so many people around the world.

This workshop can be easily duplicated in your own congregation! Contact Kay Luttinen (303.770.1111 or [ONERMS@aol.com](mailto:ONERMS@aol.com)) to get the details! She is also developing a power point presentation on the topic, focusing especially on water-related Good Gifts.

## Can Gardeners Help Alleviate Hunger?

Many of our congregations with large gifts of record to the World Hunger Appeal are also very involved in local outreach. Understanding and generosity seem to beget more understanding and generosity!

If you are looking for a new way to support local community kitchens and food pantries, consider starting a local *Plant a Row for the Hungry* campaign. This effort is a public service program of the Garden Writers Association.

Launched in 1995, *Plant a Row* has encouraged gardeners to plant and donate an extra row of produce to support local relief organizations. PAR is endorsed by Master Gardeners; American Community Gardening Association; National Gardening Association; and by nurseries, seed companies and garden suppliers across the United States and Canada.



How can your congregation participate? Go to [www.gardenwriters.org](http://www.gardenwriters.org) for more information or check the synod's website ([rmselca.org/hunger](http://rmselca.org/hunger)) for a pdf brochure on how to start your campaign. Make sure you find a local agency that will actually accept fresh produce for clients. Securing a Master Gardener who can share gardening tips and even consult on your garden problems (which always seem to crop up!) is also a helpful step.

This is the time of year to start planning our gardens...why not add this important component? One of the driving motivations behind gardening (besides the pure pleasure of getting hands dirty and watching food grow) is the emerging understanding that something needs to change in our food supply system in order for it to be sustainable for EVERYONE—including us!

Some congregations are beginning to explore actual **community gardens** in which they specifically grow produce to donate to local organizations. If you are involved in a project like that, send your story and pictures to Carol McDivitt ([mcdivittc@mindspring.com](mailto:mcdivittc@mindspring.com)) so your good ideas can be shared!

### Hunger Appeal Giving

Preliminary giving figures for fiscal year 2009 indicate that the hunger appeal raised enough money to fully fund the budget adopted and never reduced by the Church Council. WHA giving donations were lower than the previous two years, but had stronger year-long trends than regular benevolence. (Actual figures will be released when they are official.)

It is important to remember that the hunger appeal's low overhead is possible because the ELCA provides office space and the hunger program works with several program units in Chicago. Continued lower benevolence can impact the work of world hunger. We are all in this together! Hungry and hurting people are counting on us.



**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.