



Daily Bread

The Core Team Needs YOU!!

You may notice by looking at the Hunger Network Core Team box to the left of this article that we have lost several key members in the last couple of months. People move, encounter health problems, find themselves overloaded with other commitments—there are many reasons why someone may need to drop off of this team.

There are just as many reasons—if not MORE—that someone might want to JOIN this team! The Hunger Network functions as an extended group of lay and rostered contacts working in (hopefully) all the congregations of the synod to raise awareness and money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

The Core Team is responsible for keeping this network functioning...it is that simple and that complicated. Tasks can involve recruiting new contacts, communicating with congregations, sharing ideas for congregational activities, organizing or consulting on hunger awareness activities for youth gatherings and outdoor camps, planning and conducting workshops, ETC.

Because the work of ELCA World Hunger is extensive and inspiring and the need is so great, it is easy to feel that time spent in this life-saving work on behalf of the synod is worthwhile and personally rewarding.

In the past, most members of the Core Team have lived along the Front Range of Colorado. HOWEVER, since the team has begun meeting on WebEx, members can live *anywhere* in the synod. You just need a heart for this ministry, a mind eager to learn and share, and a computer and phone line.

If you think you might be interested in serving on the Core Team, contact Carol McDivitt (mcdivitt@mindspring.com) TODAY!

Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network Core Team

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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 *Life-Lines* newsletter. Go to www.elca.org/hunger/contact or call 800/638-3522, ext. 2764, to sign up.

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

Potlucks to End Hunger!

A couple of years ago, two creative and concerned pastors, Kim Conway and Mike Poole, decided to take on hunger. Their goals were to raise money, awareness, and local action in the fight against hunger by getting as many congregations as they could to do something they like to do—hold a potluck.

They picked the month of June as the target timeframe. At each potluck, the organizers would take a collection for ELCA World Hunger, hold some sort of educational forum or activity about hunger's causes and solutions, and include one or more local organizations fighting hunger in the congregation's community. The result: A Month of Potlucks.



By the end of last year, they had raised almost \$10,000 for ELCA World Hunger and had congregations all over the country involved. This year, they've changed the name to make it less restrictive. Now it's simply "Potlucks to End Hunger." Hold one in whatever month works for you; just be sure to hold one!

Instructions, ideas, and updates are available at www.amonthofpotlucks.org. When you participate, be sure to register and report your results at that website. That's how Kim and Mike are able to track the spread of the trend and tally the results. It's a lot of fun for a great cause. Won't you get involved?



—Go and Do News (May 3, 2011)

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)

for the next issue of the *Daily Bread*.

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

Voices for Change Advocacy Blog Just Launched

The advocacy ministries of the ELCA — ELCA Washington Office, State Public Policy Offices, and Lutheran Office for World Community — have just launched a brand new blog. The blog is intended to share your stories of advocacy in action and update you on the latest legislative issues. A number of postings are already there, so check it out at <http://blogs.elca.org/advocacy>.

Don't forget to also check the thoughtful postings on hunger issues in general at <http://blogs.elca.org/hungerrumblings>.

Federal and state budget cuts are severely impacting many people already struggling to climb out of poverty in this nation and around the world. To keep up to date on current proposals and their impacts, you might want to check these websites: www.bread.org (Bread for the World), www.frac.org (Food Research and Action Center), and www.fns.usda.gov (United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services).

Giving Trends Can Be Discouraging...But We Are EASTER People

In 2005, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly established a goal of \$25 million annually for the World Hunger Appeal (WHA). That figure represented \$5.00 per baptized member and recognized that hunger work is a CORE conviction of this church. It is who we are!

Unfortunately, we have never reached that goal and the budget for 2010 was \$19 million. For the first time in many years, the hunger appeal did not meet its budget, so actual spending was \$17.7 million. (Remember that no benevolence dollars go to the hunger appeal...only the designated contributions from individuals, congregations, synods, and bequests.)

The Rocky Mountain Synod contributed \$529,066 to the WHA in 2010, an average of \$6.74 per baptized member. We ranked SECOND among all the ELCA synods in total giving and FIFTH in per-baptized-member giving. While we celebrate this commitment, we also ponder the reality that giving to the hunger appeal from this synod has gone down for the last three years in a row.

The drop in contributions is understandable in difficult times, but the trend is happening just when the needs are increasing dramatically. The ELCA Church Council recently recommended an annual budget for World Hunger of \$19 million for the next two years. This action is a hopeful affirmation that we really are people of the resurrection and we are ready to journey the extra mile so that all might be fed and have sustainable life!



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