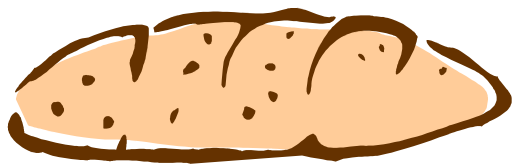


**PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS AND PASS IT ON TO HUNGER/SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAMS!**

**November 2011**

**ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network**



# Daily Bread

## Ending with Hope and Still Serving!

Sometimes the life cycle of a congregation leads to a decision to close. Such was the path of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado.

Mary Anne McKenzie (treasurer of the congregation) told the participants of the “Loving Our Neighbors” hunger workshop on October 29 that after years of ministry on the corner of Federal and Ohio, the people of Good Shepherd decided they should not continue to spend their assets just to provide a place for themselves.

Instead, they officially closed their doors in July and distributed the proceeds of the sale of their building and their cash on hand to 14 organizations and programs they “believe serve our neighbors wherever they reside — in our community or in our world.”

One-third of the proceeds were designated for an “international” ministry. Mary Anne explained that the congregation’s last permanent pastor, Jay McDivitt, had introduced them to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. During their time of ministry together, Good Shepherd increased its giving to the hunger appeal every year—becoming one of our synod’s top ten per-baptized-member giving congregations! They also applied for and received two Domestic Hunger Grants to serve the people in their neighborhood.

When it came time to determine the international ministry recipient, Mary Anne reported it took about a minute to decide that money should go to ELCA World Hunger—an incredible gift of \$188,776 that will save and change lives for years to come.

But perhaps the greatest impact of this gift is the joyful humility with which it was given. Included in the letter which accompanied the check are these words:

**While we hope that you will occasionally think of Good Shepherd with kindness, please recognize that our gift is not made as a Memorial to Good Shepherd, but in appreciation of the opportunity we have been given to continue to care—through the work you do—for the weak, the poor, the sick, the lonely, and all persons who suffer for any reason, so that they may be comforted.**

While the representatives of Good Shepherd were glad to be asked to attend the October workshop and be recognized and thanked for their gift, they were most concerned that their example be used to encourage other donors. As Mary Anne said, “This could be an opportunity to remind us all that wherever we go...we can take with us the commitment to World Hunger.”

### Can YOU Leave a Legacy for ELCA World Hunger?

Just as congregations can go through cycles of life, death, and new forms of life; so do all the saints of God’s kingdom. As members of the ELCA, we have a trusted, life-saving ministry through which we can make a difference in the lives of those who are poor and hungry. That difference can be part of our personal legacies by including the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in our wills or charitable trusts. For more information, contact Dan Rift at [Daniel.Rift@elca.org](mailto:Daniel.Rift@elca.org).

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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.



**Mary Anne McKenzie and Blanca Lelucio present a check for \$188,776 to Bishop Allan Bjornberg for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.**

# Seasonal Options for Emphasizing World Hunger

November, December, and January are busy times in congregations and in the lives of the members of congregations! These months also offer several opportunities to celebrate the work of ELCA World Hunger and to encourage giving.

- ✓ Thanksgiving. The increase in domestic hunger and poverty is impacting agencies serving the population groups whose membership is growing daily. Many congregations mark the observance of Thanksgiving by donating to or working with local agencies. This is a great way to put a face on the realities facing many of our fellow citizens. *This is most certainly true: Getting involved in local outreach DOES NOT reduce a congregation's support of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.* In fact, understanding poverty here helps us connect to poverty around the world and about 20% of each dollar funds education, advocacy and direct service domestic programs. Always make hunger appeal offering envelopes freely available in the coming months!
- ✓ Invite participation in ELCA Good Gifts. Encourage families to ask people coming to their Thanksgiving or Christmas celebrations to bring their loose change and bills (coin boxes are GREAT for encouraging saving change all year!). Once they have totaled up all the money, they can decide as a family what good gift(s) to purchase. If more money is needed for a particular gift, the children are the best emissaries to ask family members to put in a little more cash! Freely spread around the updated *Good Gifts Catalog* (2011-2013) to encourage congregational members to give and ask to receive these amazing gifts. Catalogs can be ordered at [www.elca.org/hunger/resources](http://www.elca.org/hunger/resources).
- ✓ Use Congregation Connections to find ways to link ELCA World Hunger to worship and congregational life. A copy was included in the latest Resource Packet and additional copies can be downloaded or ordered from the ELCA World Hunger website at [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger). You will find ideas for introducing the ELCA Malaria Campaign, for observing World AIDS Day on December 1, for organizing alternative giving, and for setting challenges/goals for your hunger work in 2012.
- ✓ Remind people that year-end gifts to ELCA World Hunger are tax deductible. Gifts given to your congregation need to be received by the congregation by whatever date the Church Council determines so they can be counted and credited to member 2011 giving statements. Gifts sent directly to ELCA World Hunger need to arrive or be postmarked NO LATER THAN December 31.
- ✓ Make sure world hunger donations get sent to the synod or national hunger office IMMEDIATELY. As a hunger contact, it is your responsibility to follow the money collected through the counters to the treasurer/bookkeeper and to ensure that these donations get sent in with your congregation's name clearly indicated. Donations can only do their life-saving work if they actually arrive in Chicago in a timely fashion. In times of tight budgets, these donations can make the difference in whether a program is funded—or not!



## Why Do So Many People Get Involved with ELCA World Hunger?

The Core Team of the Rocky Mountain Synod's Hunger Network has the privilege of planning events for the synod and recruiting/supporting contacts for each congregation. That means, we get to know a lot of dedicated volunteers! What makes someone give up hours of time and often significant financial gifts to this cause?

The summer issue of *Life Lines* contained a short feature on Mary Delasin who serves as the World Hunger/Advocacy co-chair for the Florida-Bahamas Synod AND as the synod co-chair for the Haiti Program through ELCA Global Mission.

Mary's comments echo those many hunger leader volunteers say about why they do this work:

**"I am inspired every day by those whose lives are difficult by the world's standards, but whose faith is unwavering. Their strength and trust in God are amazing...God always brings together the people with the gifts and talents that are needed at a particular time. Each one of us can only do so much, but when we have people from across the country working together and contributing what they have in resources, time and talents, the world is changed. Alone we can do nothing, but together with God miracles do happen."**

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



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