



Daily Bread

Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network Core Team

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Are the Hunger Boxes Working?

At the synod assembly in May, voting members were challenged to use the World Hunger Appeal "Basics" bulletin and coin box to:

- Educate themselves about the work of the appeal
- Respond by regularly filling up the coin box (which also accepts bills!)
- Tell the story of the hunger appeal to others
- Solicit a financial response from all to whom the story is told

That is a challenge the Hunger Network hoped would spread throughout the synod as a regular discipline—in addition to all the awareness and fundraising activities in which congregations engage. How are we doing?

Even in difficult economic times, the Rocky Mountain Synod continues its amazing commitment to the hungry of God's world. **Look at these results through September!**

Gifts to World Hunger Appeal (plus Stand with Africa) through synod office:

2007— \$144,988

2008— \$195,510

Total of all gifts received by WHA (includes money from synod office):

2007—\$384,994

2008— \$456,684

In addition, \$44,820 has been sent through the synod to Disaster Response. The national hunger office reports that the total of all gifts received from our synod through September is \$89,125 for Domestic Disaster Response and \$22,847 for International Disaster Response. This is WAY UP over the same time period in 2007.

Fiscal year 2008 ends January 31, 2009. There is still lots of time to keep filling your own box or planning your year-end gift AND to encourage others to do likewise. Unfortunately, the needs are rising even faster than our contributions.

Look for the new issue of *Congregation Connections* in the Winter Resource Packet for worship ideas you can use during Advent and Christmas to remember our calling to care for neighbors far away and right next door.

**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 December 1.**

Hunger Rumbings

ELCA World Hunger staff "bloggers" invite you to comment on the reflections and stories you'll find at—

<http://blogs.elca.org/hungerrumbings>.

You'll find a variety of thoughtful comments—especially as we get closer to the Christmas holiday season!

Simplify, Simplify, Simplify...

We are all heading into one of the most stressful times of the year: CHRISTMAS! With holiday decorations appearing in stores even before Halloween, the idea of Advent is completely lost in our culture. Many congregations also seem to struggle with how to observe this season of reflection and preparation.

Perhaps this year, in some ways the most economically stressful in most of our memories, we need the simplicity of Advent more than ever. AND, we need that simplicity to carry over into our Christmas celebrations as well.

The Pentecost 2008 issue of *Congregation Connections* contained some great ideas for unwrapping our attitudes about “present thinking” and seriously considering ways to give some meaningful alternative and fair trade gifts. If you can’t find your copy, you can download it from <http://archive.elca.org/hunger/resources/hungerguide.html>.

The ELCA Good Gifts catalog, available from Augsburg Fortress (ISBN 978-6-0002-1950-5) features gifts tailored for many people on your list. Giving a gift of love to a loved one can be meaningful for that person as well as the world...especially if you pair it with a simple fair trade or consumable item or a gift of your time and attention or something you have made.

Lutheran World Relief (a major partner of the World Hunger Appeal) offers fair trade coffee, chocolate, and handcrafts. Go to www.lwr.org/fairtrade or call 888.294.9660 to check out the possibilities. Even if your congregation cannot sponsor a LWR gift fair, individuals can be encouraged to order from the website or the catalog. The new 2008-2009 LWR Handcraft Project (SERVV) catalog is AWESOME and 7.5% of your retail order goes to LWR!

ELCA
Good Gifts



Principles for Raising Funds for the WHA

1. **Remember that people want to give** and serve on behalf of people living in hunger and poverty. Our gifts make us partners in a global movement to end hunger. (www.elca.org/hunger/basics)
2. **Do what your mother taught you—say “Please” and “Thank you.”** Be intentional about inviting members of your congregation to give to this ministry. Take the time to say “thank you,” and share stories (www.elca.org/hunger/stories).
3. **Frequency is more effective than intensity.** Generally, you will be more successful if you find frequent ways to lift up the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.
4. **Use as many information channels as you can** to tell the story and invite people to give: Sunday bulletin inserts, newsletters, announcements during worship, bulletin boards, display tables, adult forums, Sunday school. (www.elca.org/hunger/resources)
5. **Involve as many different groups as possible.** Sunday school teachers; confirmation students; men’s, women’s and youth groups; congregational council; choirs; church committees. Help them connect with opportunities to learn, serve, lead, and give.
6. **Push the envelope—literally.** Seemingly simple things—like having ELCA World Hunger offering envelopes in the pews every Sunday—really work. This also helps communicate to visitors that your congregation cares about making a difference in our world.
7. **Think “beyond the bake sale.”** There are members of your congregation who are ready to make personally significant gifts to help end hunger. Many will want to include ELCA World Hunger in their wills or explore planned giving options. For more information, contact the Rev. Rodger Prois (800/638-3522, ext. 2865 or rodger.prois@elca.org).
8. **Make it meaningful.** Tell the stories of this ministry to help people see how their gifts make a real difference in neighbors’ lives. Connect hunger to lectionary readings and liturgical seasons, especially Advent and Lent.
9. **Make it fun.** Have some fun while doing serious good. Let your creativity work on what is most interesting to your congregation. Sparking a little competition among groups in your church can’t hurt!
10. **Make it life-changing.** Lead by example to help young people understand that ending hunger is part of Christian vocation. Be open to the hunger-fighting ideas and leadership that youth and young adults offer.

—Adapted liberally from *Congregation Connections* (Pentecost 2008)

Looking for Resources?

www.elca.org/hunger (World Hunger Appeal)

800-638-3522 ext. 2764

email—hunger@elca.org

www.lwr.org (Lutheran World Relief)

888-294-9660

www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger
(Augsburg Fortress)

800-328-4648

www.bread.org (Bread for the World)

800-822-7323

www.simpleliving.org

(Alternatives for Simple Living)

800-821-6153

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.