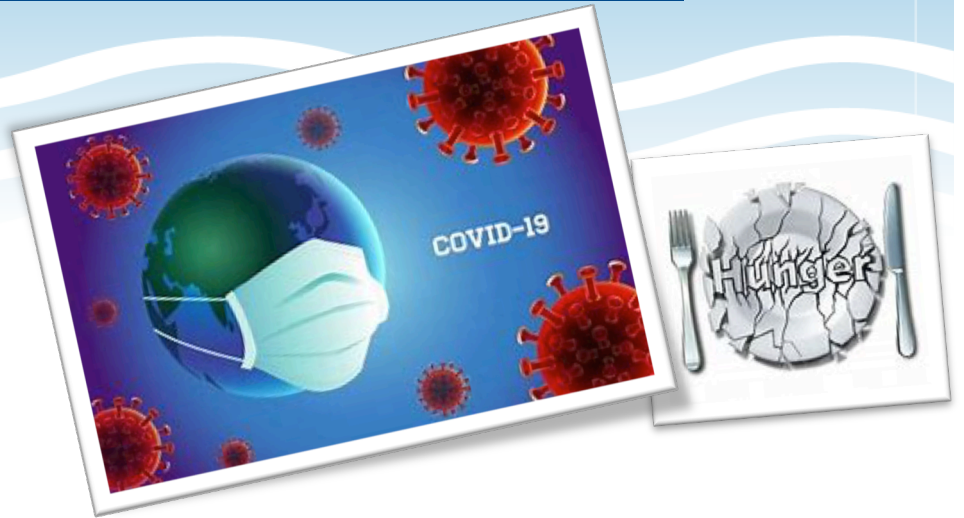


A BUNDLE OF RESPONSES TO COVID-19

for individuals, families, and congregations

Prepared by the Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network



Ideas Inside!

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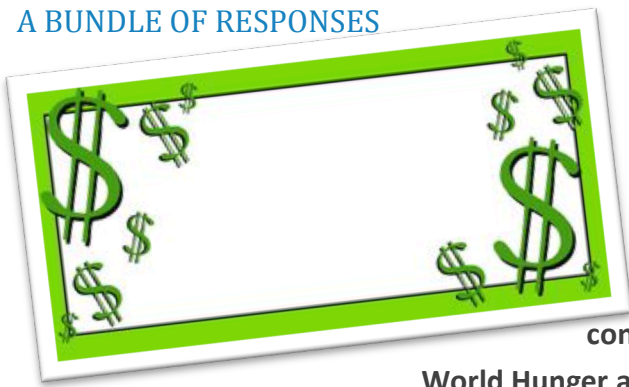
COVID-19 means a “new normal”

Over the last few months, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed so much of our everyday lives – how we interact, how we shop, how we work. In some cases, those changes are relatively small: we wear masks when we go out, we work from home if we can, we trade in-person family gatherings for virtual game nights. But for food banks, pantries, meal programs and the people who visit them, the pandemic has meant a tremendous shift in not only the need but how those programs are operating.

COVID-19 has created a “new normal” that is likely here to stay. Many of our neighbors who were employed before the pandemic now find themselves laid off or having reduced hours. Often, that means hard-working people who are doing everything right will need a little extra help feeding themselves and their families.

Across the entire Feeding America network, food banks are seeing more new faces than ever before. Roughly 2 in every 5 people visiting a food bank are seeking help for the first time. Meanwhile, for states who already had a high level of need before the pandemic, the situation is even worse.

—Feeding America



Stimulus Payments and Tax Refunds

If you received a stimulus payment but did not have a loss of income, can you consider

contributing some or all of it to ELCA

World Hunger and/or local feeding ministries?

If you have filed your 2019 income taxes and received a refund, could you contribute some of it to the same organizations?

If your congregation has not contributed to ELCA World Hunger in the past, can you encourage a response in these desperate times? Maybe...offer to match contributions up to a limit determined by you?



Daily Bread Matching Grants

Ninety-six percent of ELCA congregations participate in some form of feeding ministry, from community meals to food pantries – truly providing daily bread. THAT's AMAZING! With COVID-19 bringing so much of daily life to a grinding halt and creating an economic pandemic in its wake, these ministries are more vital than ever.

ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread Matching Grants support congregations and their partners as they work toward a just world where all are fed. In response to COVID-19, 200 congregations invited their members, networks, and friends to support their feeding ministries by raising funds online to match a \$500 grant from ELCA World Hunger. Together, they raised over \$200,000 in less than three weeks!



More Daily Bread grants will be available as soon as the necessary donations come in. To be informed of future Daily Bread Matching Grant opportunities, email Hunger@elca.org.

HELP PEOPLE FIND RESOURCES with Community Assistance Guides



Community Assistance Guides for every state are on the [ELCA World Hunger resources page](#) under the "Hunger Ed" tab. All of the states are grouped together in a zip folder. (Guides for the states in our synod are attached to this brochure AND available on the RMS Hunger website page.)

The guides are meant to be a starting point for finding applications and information on public programs. These can be shared electronically with members of a congregation, contacts on an email list, or with clients of a feeding ministry. They can also be printed and placed in bags of food during distribution days at a food pantry. These can also be posted to social media groups for a community or shared on a website.

Little Free Pantry – Will It Work for Your Congregation???

The mini pantry movement is a grassroots movement led by neighbors who want to help neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Neighbors create a designated, easily accessible space for donation of food, hygiene, and paper products. The motto of the movement is: **Give what you can. Take what you need.**

According to Anna Thompson, the Little Free Pantry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming, was originally built by St. Mark's Episcopal through a grant. Four pantries were built by St. Mark's and given to three additional congregations in downtown Cheyenne.

The St. Paul's pantry is filled daily through donations from the congregation and community. It serves the neighborhood and the homeless with food, cold weather gear,

personal care items, water, detergent, and (sometimes) pet food.

If you want to explore starting this ministry in your own congregation, go to littlefoodpantry.org to download building plans, tips for starting out, lists of food and supplies, and a brochure that summarizes the basics of the program.

In response to COVID-19, some Little Free Libraries have been converted to pantries!



Wondering What To Donate??

Hunger Network Core Team Member, Jen Enquist, works in a direct feeding ministry and suggests the following items for these ministries (especially if they serve the homeless):

Household Goods—paper towels, toilet paper, dry laundry soap, small bottles of liquid laundry soap, laundry pods and dryer sheets in a small baggie, cleaning supplies (wipes).

Personal Care Items—small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, bars of soap, packets of soap leaves.

Food—lightweight non-perishable foods (boxes of macaroni and cheese, microwave meals), tuna pouches and crackers, small bags of trail mix or goldfish, meat sticks, peanut butter and crackers, and other high-protein foods. Avoid heavy items or things that need a can opener.

Support Local Ministries!

These are challenging days for all the ministries in our communities that feed hungry people.

If you are able to donate, PLEASE check with the ministries BEFORE loading up on donations.

They will know what items they need.

Monetary contributions will probably be most useful.

Encourage your congregation to write notes to staff members of food distribution ministries.

Enclose gift cards if possible.

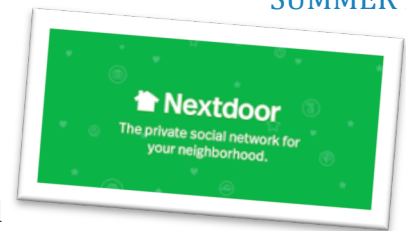


Nextdoor App to the Rescue!

As the state of Colorado began to shut down in mid-March, Barbara Ripperger (King of Kings Lutheran Church) contacted the newly-formed Pueblo Rescue Mission to see what their needs might be. Armed with a list, she was only able to purchase a few of the requested items; as the grocery shelves were quite empty. What to do?

After praying for guidance, she went to the computer and called up the Nextdoor app for the south side of Pueblo. She posted a request for neighbors to bring one can of fruit or vegetables to her front porch, where she placed a box labeled "Pueblo Rescue Mission."

Within a few hours, she found three boxes and four bags of canned goods on her porch! The generosity continued with additional items over the next several weeks. God (and neighbors) answer prayers...



As of June 3, over 6.2 million people had been infected and over 400,000 had lost their lives due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. The pandemic is affecting all aspects of life for people across the globe. **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)** is responding to this pandemic here in the United States and around the world.

How can you help?

PRAY for our nation and the world as we face uncertainties.
May God's healing presence bring peace and hope in this time of need.
May God deliver comfort to those who mourn the loss of loved ones and strength to those who are working diligently to care for affected communities.



GIVE to Lutheran Disaster Response's general account so that we can respond quickly whenever and wherever disaster strikes. Did you know that 100% of gifts to LDR go to relief because of the underlying work of ELCA World Hunger? Give to that appeal as well so that all projects can continue and expand. Contributions can be made through congregations OR directly at elca.org/hunger and elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse.

FOLLOW our church's work on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram AND read the blog updates at blogs.elca.org ... share the news with friends and family who may not yet know the story into which we are ALL invited.

Working to Address Systemic Changes!

An important part of the work supported by ELCA World Hunger is **ADVOCACY!** Our theological understandings and adopted social statements guide the work of advocacy offices in Washington, D.C. and several states (including Colorado and New Mexico). Numerous pieces of legislation are designed to address underlying issues related to



the virus AND the resulting economic pandemic. **WE ARE AT THE TABLE** to press for actions that reflect the dignity and needs of all human beings. Follow the action at elca.org/advocacy.