



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

NOVEMBER 2016

GO *and* DO NEWS

A monthly publication for ELCA World Hunger Leaders

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FROM RYAN'S DESK: THE HOUSE GOD PROMISED

Dear Friends in Christ,

November is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month, and this year the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty has released [Housing Not Handcuffs](#), its newest report on policies that criminalize homelessness. The center has tracked 187 U.S. cities since 2006 to study trends in criminalization, and what it has found is a mixed bag. Some cities have enacted progressive measures to address homelessness constructively. But overall, there has been tremendous growth in laws that make it illegal for homeless people to engage in survival tactics like camping (up 69 percent), sleeping in vehicles (up 143 percent) and sitting or lying down in public (up 52 percent.)

That isn't a typo. Among the cities NLHCP surveyed, 47 percent have made it illegal to sit on a sidewalk. Need to sit on the ground for a rest in Puyallup, Wash.? You could face a \$250 fine and be banned from all public places within city limits for up to 5 years. Legislation like this has effectively made it illegal to be homeless in cities across the U.S. Proponents of anti-homeless legislation have argued that it is in the best interest of the community to reduce the visibility of homeless people. But how are we defining community? Whose "best interest" gets to be considered?

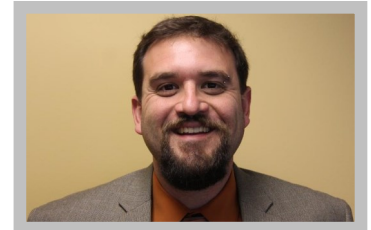
This rapidly approaching season of Advent calls to mind hopeful anticipation for the birth of the One who will redeem all the world, reconciling us to God, and the Scriptures for the First Sunday in Advent use the image of "house" to symbolize God's promises of a secure future: "the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains" (Isaiah 2:1-5); "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1). In other lectionary years, the Scriptures remind us of what Thomas Merton points to: The "shoot ... from the stump of Jesse" begins his life in temporary housing and will spend it with "nowhere to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20).

There is a profound disconnect between the message we send with legislation and the message sent to us by the gospel (Aha! Law and gospel again!). The false security of downtown business districts is earned by excluding those who are poor. The security of the "house of the Lord" is gained through the sacrifice of one who became poor for our sake. Some of the ministries your gifts support through ELCA World Hunger are directly related to providing safe shelter or long-term stable housing. But all of them can be sites where community is built and where the people of God give witness to the community God is building in our midst, a reconciled community in which people are seen and loved.

This Advent season, let us bear witness to the "house" God has promised, a house with "many rooms" (John 14:2), to which all are invited.

In peace,

Ryan P. Cumming, Ph.D.
Program Director, Hunger Education, ELCA World Hunger



WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day is observed each year on Dec. 1. This is a time when we remember people who have died from AIDS-related illnesses and people who are living with HIV. It is a time to give thanks for the progress that has been made and to reflect on what still needs to be done. It is an opportunity for people around the world to unite to eradicate AIDS and show support for people living with HIV. It is a time to commit anew to ensuring that no one is left behind.



ELCA World Hunger is committed to the [ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS](#) and your gifts help ELCA World Hunger take a comprehensive approach to health.

In partnership with ELCA Young Adults, ELCA World Hunger supported members of the ELCA Young Adult Cohort as they attended the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. The conference brought together policymakers, people living with HIV, experts in HIV research and Individuals who are committed to bringing an end to AIDS.

Shawanda Jackson, a member of the ELCA Young Adult Cohort, acknowledged the importance of the experience and the need to bring information back to congregations and communities saying "those of us who were at the conference had a responsibility to go back to our many communities and take the knowledge and information that we gained and inform others."

You can read more reflections and experiences on the [ELCA Young Adult Cohort blog](#).

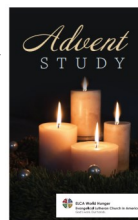
As you prepare to observe World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, you may want to refer to the following resources:

[ELCA World AIDS Day Worship Resources](#)

[Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance: World AIDS Day Service](#)

EXPERIENCE ADVENT WITH ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Advent is just around the corner, and ELCA World Hunger is ready to walk through this season of preparation and wonder with you, your family and the congregation. Order your ELCA Good Gifts ornaments and planning guides today! Also new this season, ELCA World Hunger's Advent Calendar and Advent Study, which are perfect to share. Order your copies today and download the study online.



[Advent Study \(English\)](#)

Justo a tiempo para el Adviento. ¡El Estudio de Adviento de ELCA World Hunger están disponibles en español ahora! Puedes descargar tu copia hoy.

[Estudio de Adviento \(español\)](#)

También, en el futuro, el Programa de la ELCA para Aliviar el Hambre Mundial va a traducir más recursos por su ministerio en congregaciones. Por ejemplo, tenemos un recurso para jardín de comunidades. Este recurso va a estar preparado pronto en español.

¿Tiene preguntas? Llámenos a 773.380.2616.

A POEM FOR ADVENT

A poem for the Advent season to accompany the letter on Page 1

Into this world,
this demented inn,
in which there is absolutely no
room for him at all,
Christ has come uninvited.
But because he cannot be at
home in it,
because he is out of place in
it,
and yet he must be in it,
his place is with those others
for whom there is no room.

Thomas Merton, "Raids on the
Unspeakable," 1966

PARTNERSHIP OF THE MONTH: MONTROSE GRACE PLACE

November is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness



Month. Meet our featured partner and current ELCA World Hunger funded Domestic Hunger Grant recipient, Montrose Grace Place.

Founded by a local congregation in 2009, Montrose Grace Place serves homeless youth in the Montrose neighborhood of Houston, Texas. Every Thursday, Montrose Grace Place welcomes homeless youth and provides them with a family-style dinner served by volunteers. The meal is followed by a creative group activity and a facilitated peer discussion. Montrose Grace Place also has a clothing and toiletries closet to help provide youth with essential supplies.

The Rev. Ashley Dellagiacoma joined the ELCA World Hunger Network webinar to share the story of Montrose Grace Place. You can find details below or visit their website at montrosegaceplace.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT: #ELCAyIs2016

ELCA World Hunger relaunched its social media presence in October 2015. Since then, many of you have engaged ELCA World Hunger online.



This month's social media highlight comes from the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit. Youth from across the ELCA gathered for fellowship and to explore their connection to the wider church.

During the event, the youth created [a video](#) that features ELCA Good Gifts in a fun and inspiring way.

#GivingTuesday

On Nov. 29, we invite you to participate in #GivingTuesday with ELCA World Hunger.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Here are some ways you can get involved:

1. Give one of the most popular ELCA Good Gifts – keep an eye on your email.
2. Follow along on social media, and share widely!
3. Join [Team ELCA](#) to share your support of ELCA World Hunger and invite friends and family to do the same.

MONTHLY NETWORK WEBINAR: OCTOBER LINK; NO WEBINAR IN DECEMBER

This month, the ELCA World Hunger webinar featured a focus on National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month. The Rev. Ashley Dellagiacoma shared the story of Montrose Grace Place, a current ELCA World Hunger funded Domestic Hunger Grant recipient. You can listen [here](#). The recording is listed by topic below:

00:00 - 02:40 Welcome and introductions

02:41 - 34:47 Feature topic: Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

34:47 - 42:00 Networking discussions

42:00 - 44:50 Resource highlight

44:50 - 49:00 Webinar update and discussion

There will be **no webinar next month**. We will see you again in the new year with a webinar on Jan. 17. **Merry Christmas!**



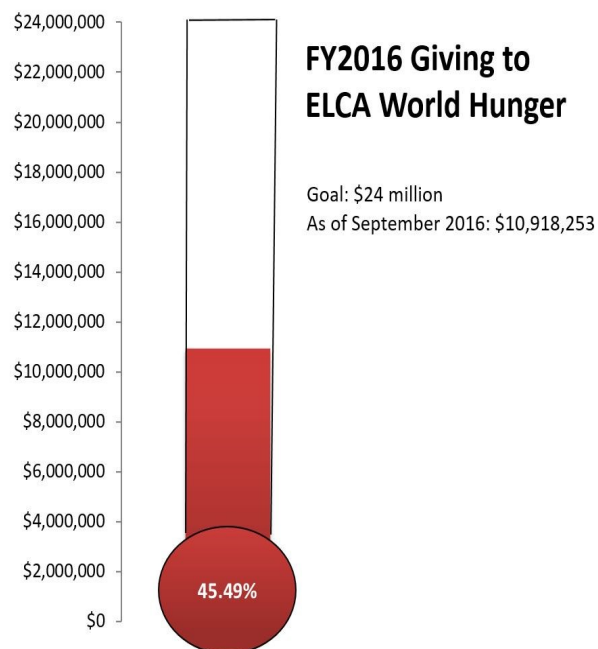
BY THE NUMBERS: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

From the extended drought in Africa, flooding and hurricanes and people on the move from places like Syria and Sudan, 2016 has been marked by many disasters. Halfway through the year, it was apparent that the need was greater than the response. So, in July, this news was shared with the church. A generous donor responded with a \$100,000 match to encourage giving, and this month, we can share that through our combined efforts, that match was met – **thank you.**

So far in 2016, \$3,864,879 has been given to Lutheran Disaster Response (unofficial Feb. 1–Nov. 15), but the need persists.

Give today. Share with your congregations.

As of Nov. 15, your general, undesignated gifts (for rapid response and forgotten disasters) are especially needed for: the drought in Africa, Hurricane Matthew and AMMPARO (work with migrant minors). To find out more, visit ldr.org.

**Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA – Totals as of the end of September 2016**

ELCA World Hunger year-to-date (toward overall goal of \$24 million by end of FY2016)	\$10.92 million
ELCA World Hunger (toward <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i> goal of \$115 million by end of FY2018)	\$52.18 million
Overall <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i> (toward overall goal of \$198 million by end of FY2018)	\$91.53 million

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