

Help End Hunger 2024 Offering of Letters

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:1

The PoP ELCA Advocacy Team encourages your participation in the Offering of Letters as hunger has increased dramatically throughout our country and the world due to the pandemic, climate change, and conflicts.

Your letters make a difference! In 2022, we celebrated victories with the passage of the Global Malnutrition Prevention & Treatment Act (10-19-22), the Global Food Security Act (12-15-22), and School Meals (12-21-22). Bread for the World and Covenant Churches like Prince of Peace built these victories with vision, patience, and persistence. Hear about the impact of our letters straight from two Members of Congress:

<u>Senator Todd Young - Letters Matter (vimeo.com)</u>, a Republican from Indiana.

<u>Senator Sherrod Brown - Letters Matter (vimeo.com)</u>, a Democrat from Ohio.

In 2023, our letters supported building healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. This year's Offering of Letters is again focusing on using the reauthorization of the Farm Bill to improve food systems. The Farm Bill is an omnibus bill that is reauthorized every 5 years, and 75% of the funding associated with the Farm Bill is for nutrition. Unfortunately, Congress failed to get the bill reauthorized in 2023, but it is expected to take it up this spring, so the Farm Bill remains the top legislative priority for addressing hunger.

Prince of Peace's 2024 Offering of Letters is now underway.

Help us reach the goal of *at least* 125 letters from PoP by March 24!

There are several ways to participate. Please choose one or more ways to contact your <u>3</u> Members of Congress - both senators plus your representative in the House. Use this link to find out who represents you in the House: https://www.house.gov/. Members of the Advocacy Team are happy to assist you; team members are Allan & Ann Clarke, Pat Henningsen, Roger & Leah Johnson, Ron & Nancy Jones, and Beth McQuistion.

- Pick up materials for writing your letters at home. Please return hard copy letters by Palm Sunday, March 24.
- Sign up to have the sample letters emailed to you to *personalize*, print and return to church. (One to each senator and one to your representative in the House for a total of 3)
- ❖ Visit Pass a Family-Friendly Farm Bill to find an email message to personalize & send to your Members of Congress.
- Use this QR code to be taken to an email letter to personalize.

IMPORTANT! If you use the email option, please be sure to check the box that your letter is part of an Offering of Letters and enter Prince of Peace ELCA, Appleton, WI.

NOTE: Best practices for ensuring your letter is read and/or counted by a staff person or legislator:

- Write handwritten letters, if possible.
- For more impact, do personalize the letter by sharing why you care about hunger.
- > Deliver the letters to the district office.

<u>Please return your letters to church.</u> The Advocacy Team will deliver letters to district offices.