



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

MAY 2017

GO *and* DO NEWS

A monthly publication for ELCA World Hunger Leaders

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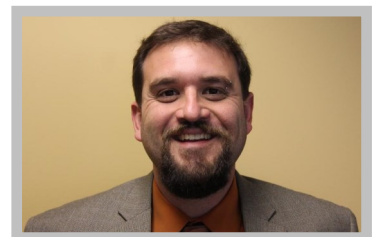
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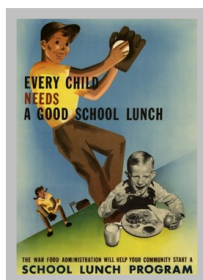
FROM RYAN'S DESK:

Dear ELCA World Hunger Leaders and Friends,

Last year, ELCA World Hunger published a new resource, a how-to guide on Backpack Buddies programs. These programs provide food to schoolchildren and their families on the weekends, when kids don't have access to the federally subsidized food they can receive for breakfast and lunch at school.



On the surface, backpack programs are merely relief ministries, providing food to meet an immediate need. But when we start digging deeper, we find that relief is never merely relief. Relief is, at its root, a testimony to the dignity of our neighbors. To give someone food is to recognize them as a person worthy of being fed, a life worthy of protection and investment and a need worthy of being met. A backpack full of food is a visible refusal to let the current state of food insecurity in our community be ignored. It is advocacy. Knowing the significant effects under-nutrition can have on a child's ability to do their best in school – and the strong correlation between good education and food security – this kind of relief is also an investment in development, ensuring that the youngest generation will have the food they need to succeed.



On June 4, we will mark the 71st anniversary of the National School Lunch Act, the 1946 federal law that gave rise to the subsidized lunch programs we see in schools across the United States today. The 1946 law grew out of earlier state and community-based programs that tried to address malnutrition among children and the American populace in general. Local taxes and charitable donations couldn't meet the need alone, so the federal act created a way to support these programs nationwide. It also created a way to subsidize farmers at a time when the market didn't provide an outlet for them to sell surplus crops. Lawmakers viewed it as a win-win.

Today, the National School Lunch Program provides food for over 30 million children. This meets a critical need within many of our communities and, when functioning alongside local programs like Backpack Buddies to fill the gaps, engenders a robust response to hunger across the United States.

Our advocacy for programs like the National School Lunch Program is an expression of our Lutheran belief that government is a gift of God for our well-being and, when functioning well, makes a healthy life a real possibility for everyone. The work we support together through ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Advocacy helps ensure that people are fed – and is a testimony to our neighbors and our leaders of the God-given dignity of all our neighbors, especially those who hunger in a land of plenty.

Peace,

Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director of Hunger Education , ELCA World Hunger

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: JOINT CALL TO PRAYER, FASTING AND ADVOCACY

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, and the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, have issued a [joint statement calling for prayer, fasting and advocacy](#).



The statement calls for fasting on the 21st of each month through December 2018. The 21st of each month is targeted because by that day about 90 percent of Supplemental Nutrition Benefits Program (SNAP) benefits have been used.

Presiding Bishop Eaton also issued a video that gives more information about the statement and the ways congregations and individuals can get involved. Regular updates will be posted on [ELCA Advocacy's Facebook page](#).

HARVESTING HOPE: PHOTO GALLERY

Living Lutheran has published an [online photo gallery](#) featuring images from a project supported by ELCA World Hunger. A ministry of our companion church, The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope, the project supports farmer training focused on sustainability in an area affected by climate change. You can read more about the way climate change is affecting Nicaragua [here](#).



REASOURCE OF THE MONTH: BACKPACK BUDDIES

Backpack Buddies programs meet an immediate need and help mitigate the effects hunger has on a child's ability to learn.

Congregations across the ELCA already participate in Backpack programs.

ELCA World Hunger's Backpack Buddies How-To Guide can help you explore whether a backpack program would be possible in your community, the steps to take and reflections for faith.

Download the guide [here](#).



NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

Mark your calendars! National HIV Testing Day is June 27. The ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS, adopted in 2009, states that the church is called "to eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive."

Find out more information about this initiative and the steps you can take to know your status and end HIV stigma by [watching a short video](#).

If you have any questions, e-mail Savanna Sullivan, program associate, ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS at Savanna.Sullivan@elca.org.



DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS

The application for [Domestic Hunger Grants](#) for 2018-2019 is now open!



The ELCA World Hunger funded Domestic Hunger Grants program supports ministries that accompany people who experience poverty and hunger across the United States and Caribbean. Domestic Hunger Grants fund projects in advocacy, community development, community-based organizing and relief that strengthen the foundations of communities affected by hunger and poverty.

In 2017, this program allocated **\$691,810** to support **347 domestic projects and programs**.

All applications must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2017, to be considered for funding in 2018 and 2019. You can find the application [here](#).

SYNOD ASSEMBLY SEASON

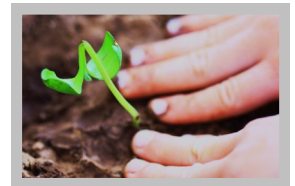
Synod assembly season is in full swing, and we want to hear what you have been up to!



Let us know how you shared the story of ELCA World Hunger at your assembly by e-mailing hunger@elca.org or on ELCA World Hunger's [Facebook page](#).

GARDEN BLOG

Last month ELCA World Hunger's blog [featured the first](#) in a five-part series covering the "five p's of gardening": planning, planting, perspiring, picking and putting to bed.



[This month's edition](#) moves from planning to planting and has some helpful tips on deciding where to plant, composting, recipes and more! Share pictures of your garden's progress this spring on ELCA World Hunger's [Facebook page](#).

MONTHLY NETWORK WEBINAR: MAY LINK AND JUNE MEETING DATE

This month, the ELCA World Hunger monthly network webinar's feature topic was Backpack Buddies How-To Guide. We heard more about Domestic Hunger Grants as well as National HIV Testing Day and a fundraising update. You can listen [here](#). The recording is listed by topic below:

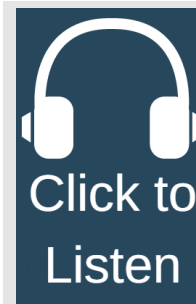
00:00-00:00 Welcome (unrecorded)

00:00-19:12 Feature topic: Backpack Buddies

19:12-33:11 Domestic Hunger Grants

33:11-35:57 Networking update

35:57-53:00 Fundraising update and closing



Next month's webinar:

Tuesday, June 20

8:30 p.m. Eastern

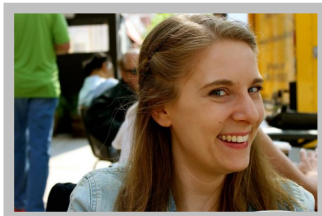
7:30 p.m. Central

6:30 p.m. Mountain

5:30 p.m. Pacific

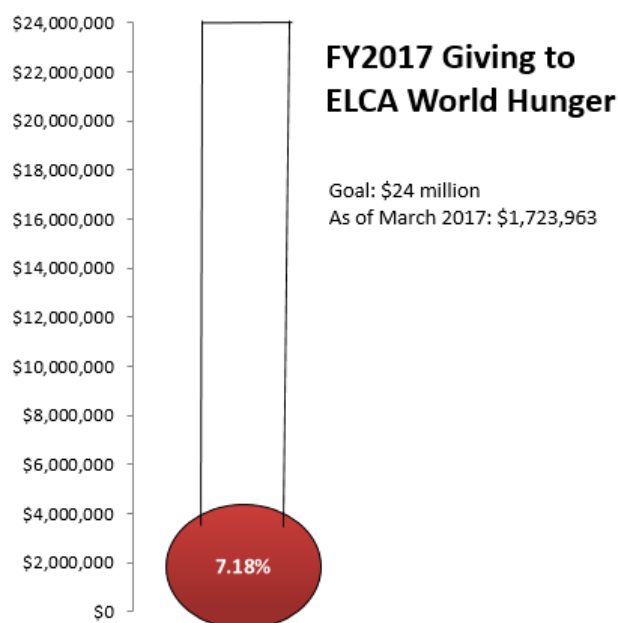
BY THE NUMBERS: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

The ELCA World Hunger team is pleased to welcome Caitlin Sellnow as development assistant for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal.



Caitlin served as a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member in Baltimore for two years before serving as the program assistant in the Molecular Biosciences Department at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. She is completing her master's in creative writing. Caitlin will work with congregations as they support ELCA World Hunger in generous and creative ways. Feel free to welcome Caitlin with a friendly e-mail at

Caitlin.Sellnow@elca.org.

**Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA – Totals as of the end of March 2017**

ELCA World Hunger year-to-date (toward overall goal of \$24 million by end of FY2017)	\$1.72 million
ELCA World Hunger (toward <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i> goal of \$115 million by end of FY2018)	\$66.04 million
Overall <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i> (toward overall goal of \$198 million by end of FY2018)	\$116.2 million

ELCA WORLD HUNGER CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION STAFF**ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal**

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Emily Dubay, associate director

Sharon Magnuson, associate director

Krystal McClinton, development assistant

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