

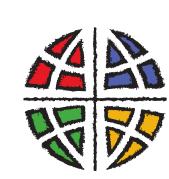
ELCA World Hunger's  
**40 Days** of Giving

FEBRUARY 2020

	<b>26</b> Generous God, provide bread for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and protection for the vulnerable. Listen to the cries of all who are abused or imprisoned, or who suffer pain, anxiety or illness. Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b>	<b>27</b> Today would be a good day to set a goal for your donation to ELCA World Hunger as part of 40 Days of Giving. That goal might be a specific dollar amount or one of the ideas shown throughout this calendar. Write it down and refer back to it throughout the season.	<b>28</b> Through ELCA World Hunger, our church supports work in areas related to health care, income generation, food security, clean water and education — addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty. Learn more about our approach at <a href="http://ELCA.org/Hunger">ELCA.org/Hunger</a> .	<b>29</b> "Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise." <i>ELW 319, "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"</i>
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MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WORSHIP	STUDY	REFLECT	GIVE	PRAY	HEAR	SING
1 Read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11.	2 Explore what hope means in Lent with ELCA World Hunger in this week's study, "Safety and Stability."	3 "I will never stop dreaming about my future." <b>What is your hope for your future? For the future of your community? The world?</b>	4 According to World Bank estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty, on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10.7% of the population. <b>With a gift of \$2 a day, you can make a significant impact on hunger and poverty in our world.</b>	5 God of the wilderness, we pray for creation. Show your glory in deserts and on mountaintops. Nourish gardens and orchards and bless those who tend them. Forgive us for our desire to dominate creation instead of serving as faithful stewards and caretakers. Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b>	6 "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame" (Joel 2:26).	7 "When through the waters winds our path, around us pain, around us death: deep calls to deep, a saving breath, and found beside us faithfully there is the love of God." <i>ELW 699, "In Deepest Night"</i>
8 Read today's Gospel, John 3:1-7 or Matthew 17:1-9.	9 As church, we work and hope to be fed spiritually and physically. Read more about what this means for us in this week's study, "Livelihoods."	10 "My life has changed from the worst to the better and there is a bright future for me and my children." <b>What does it mean to "hunger"?</b>	11 A woman may have the dream and skills to start her own small business, but with little savings or access to credit, getting started can be a challenge. <b>A gift of \$125 can fund a microloan</b> , which can be just what a woman needs to start her business, creating a steady source of income and helping her family overcome poverty.	12 God of rebirth, empower your church throughout the world to be a voice of hope for those who fear judgment or condemnation. Assure us of your faithfulness and give us confidence to proclaim your salvation for all. Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b>	13 "Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people. For you satisfy the thirsty soul and fill the hungry with good things" (Psalm 107:8-9).	14 "Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Christ, be our light!" <i>ELW 715, "Christ, Be Our Light"</i>
15 Read today's Gospel, John 4:5-42.	16 "Our Lenten journey continues, in repentance for the sin of gender injustice and in hope for the just world God is creating in our midst." Learn more in this week's study, "Justice for All."	17 "The program has given a sense of joy, and fulfillment that I can give hope to the hopeless girls who are being oppressed." <b>What story of a woman leader in the Bible inspires you?</b>	18 Worldwide, girls are far less likely than boys to be enrolled in school. <b>A gift of \$40 to ELCA World Hunger can help a family with school fees and uniforms</b> , eliminating the difficult choice parents must make about which children go to school and which ones stay home. When you educate a girl, you help open a world of opportunity for her future.	19 God of living water, protect from pollution or misuse all rivers, lakes, oceans and streams. Bless the work of those who dig wells and those who advocate for access to clean water, that all people and animals have enough to drink. Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b>	20 "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:17-18).	21 "Lord, you give justice in all oppression, maintain the right, set prisoners free. You feed the hungry in your compassion; healing and life flow from your tree. Happy are all who hope in God, whose grace is rich and deep and broad!" <i>ELW 877, "Praise the Almighty!"</i>
22 Read today's Gospel, John 9:1-41.	23 "The hope fostered in Lent invites us to see as God sees, to give ourselves over in hope and trust to the role God has called us to play." Read this week's study, "Leadership."	24 "When I sit at the table at Farming Hope's restaurant in San Francisco (Manny's), if I open my eyes, I see communion exactly as Jesus of Nazareth intended it to be — friends, eating intentionally ... we're all welcome." <b>Where did you learn what it means to be a leader?</b>	25 Millions of Americans struggle to get enough to eat. Whether you're looking for a refuge from the streets or a little extra help to get by, a warm meal and a seat at the table can go a long way. <b>A gift of \$100 to ELCA World Hunger can help feed 50 people at a soup kitchen.</b>	26 God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God. <b>Your mercy is great.</b>	27 "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people" (Acts 2:44-47a).	28 "Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor; es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justicia y busca la verdad." <i>ELW 266, "Toda la Tierra"</i>  "All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set everybody free." <i>ELW 266, "All Earth Is Hopeful"</i>
29 Read today's Gospel, John 11:1-45.	30 "Even as we journey with Christ toward the cross on Good Friday, even as drought, death, hunger and poverty continue to confront our communities, God is at work in, through and among us and our neighbors, breathing new life just when we think all is lost." Read more in this week's study, "Renewal of Earth."	31 "It has helped me to be more committed to volunteering in the community and the church." <b>What steps can your church, community or family take to care for creation?</b>				



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

# APRIL 2020

# ELCA World Hunger's **DAYS** of Giving

Read today's Gospel,  
Matthew 26:14-27:66  
or Matthew 27:11-54.

God of love, tend to flocks, fields  
and vineyards. Bring favorable  
weather for crops to grow. Guide  
the hands of those who cultivate  
farm and garden. Let the earth  
flourish so that all may eat and be  
satisfied. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Gather all you've collected throughout your Lenten journey and add up your total gift to ELCA World Hunger. Bring your gifts to worship or make your donation online at [ELCA.org/40Days](http://ELCA.org/40Days). Thank you for working creatively and courageously toward a just world where all are fed!

**A gift of \$50 to ELCA World Hunger can help a new gardener grow.** Tools, equipment, seeds and training help a family start their own small garden, improve their daily nutrition and increase their earning power.

1

God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to be finalized, those seeking election and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

"Thus says the Lord God: 'I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ... I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,' says the Lord" (Ezekiel 37:12b-14).

"Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn, find  
wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in  
a weary world: the promised green  
of Eden comes."

*ELW 726, "Light Dawns on a Weary World"*

4

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Read today's Gospel,  
Matthew 28:1-10 or John 2:1-18

**WORSHIP:** Begin your week with the Word of God, preparing your heart and mind to learn more about what it means to hope during the season of Lent.

**STUDY:** Use ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving weekly Lenten study at home or at church to dive deeper into stories of hunger and hope this Lent. Download at [ELCA.org/40Days](http://ELCA.org/40Days).

**REFLECT:** Use these days to revisit and reflect on the weekly study readings, either in small groups or individually.

**GIVE:** As you journey through Lent, consider the ways in which your own gifts to ELCA World Hunger can create hope throughout the world. Consider using a 40 Days of Giving coin jar, setting a specific goal amount (such as \$2/day) or selecting one of the ideas shown through this calendar. See other ideas at [ELCA.org/40Days](http://ELCA.org/40Days).

**PRAY:** Use the prayers of intercession shown throughout the calendar this Lent as, together, we humbly ask for God's care and blessing over all creation. Prayers adapted from *Sundays and Seasons* (Augsburg Fortress, 2019).

**HEAR:** Read and reflect on the selected Bible verses for each week on your own, with your family or with a small group to hear the word of God this Lent.

**SING:** To close each week — and to remind yourself of the hope to come in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — read the included hymn text, either to yourself or out loud as a group, or consider singing the full hymn in your prayer group, Bible study or worship service.



# **ELCA World Hunger**

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Goal amount:

\$