

# Sharing the Good News

from the pen of the Mission Interpreter



August 8, 2021, Volume 14

## ELCA World Hunger

*ELCA World Hunger is our church at work, doing what Christ calls us to do. Hunger is a challenge we can overcome, and with generous, loving hands we work for a just world where all are fed.*

According to the United Nations **one in ten people in the world can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.** Through ELCA World Hunger your gifts are at work to change this statistic in a variety of ways—from sustainable development to health to education. As part of this holistic approach, ELCA World Hunger supports advocacy work focusing specifically on the powerful way that governments can work to end hunger. Thanks in part to your gifts to World Hunger the ELCA engages directly with local, state and national governments and equips people of faith to seek economic, racial and gender justice.

One of the newest advocacy efforts is the ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellowship, a program that combines leadership development and faith formation with effective advocacy. “We have sufficient food in this world to feed each human being, and yet hunger is a huge problem,” says Elena Robles, one of the Fellows. I see advocacy as important in that it allows change and disruption to occur within the ways that decisions are made in our political system.”

At this time ELCA Advocacy is working for the continuance of the Global Food Security Act. Passed by Congress in 2016 with huge bipartisan support, the Act has enabled the U.S. government to improve the way food and nutrition programs are implemented and accounted for in low-income countries, including working with smallholder farmers. The legislation outlined a specific approach for stimulating economic growth through investments in sustainable agriculture with the goal of fighting hunger and poverty broadly. The reauthorization of this bill in 2018 will allow for the continuation of this work and assure the U.S. commitment to fight global hunger and poverty. ELCA Advocacy worked for the passage of this 2016 legislation, and Lutherans around the country contacted legislators in support. We continue to advocate for the bill's reauthorization. \*

Two people who have worked together for more than 50 years in support ELCA World Hunger advocacy are Donald Barb, an ELCA pastor and Bruce Davidson who grew up in a farming community and understands connection to land and agriculture. “Changing the systems that create hunger requires the intervention of not just good-minded and warmhearted Christians, but a whole community that realizes that we are both part of the solution and part of the problem,” says Davidson who has served as director of the ELCA public policy office in New Jersey. Pastor Barb adds, “I think for our heritage and at the pinnacle of who we are as Lutherans, it's about grace and mercy and love. It not about deserving or earning or being worthy. Who qualifies, who gets what, time limits, time frames—that takes too much energy and we, as Lutherans, don't need to bother with that. We just help people in need. Period.”

\*To see how you can help visit [ELCA.org/advocacytoendhunger](https://www.elca.org/advocacytoendhunger)