

SYNO HUNGER NEWS



North/West Lower Michigan Synod/ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

World Food Day

(WFD) is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. It is observed each October 16th in recognition of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The first World Food Day was in 1981. In the United States the endeavor is sponsored by 450 national, private voluntary organizations.

The 2009
theme is:

FOOD FOR ALL



Achieving Food
Security in
Times of
Crisis

WORKING TOGETHER WORKS!

WORLD FOOD DAY
OCTOBER 16th

At a time when the global economic crisis dominates the news, the world needs to be reminded that not everyone works in offices and factories. The crisis is stalking the small-scale farms of the world too, where 70 percent of the world's hungry live and work.

With an estimated increase of 105 million hungry people in 2009, there are now 1.02 billion malnourished people in the world, meaning that almost one sixth of all humanity is suffering from hunger....

Crisis or no crisis, we have the know-how to do something about hunger. We also have the ability to find money to solve problems when we consider them important.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Food Day , Autumn 2009

Your North/West Lower Michigan Synod Hunger Team encourages you to use World Food Day as an opportunity to increase understanding of the needs of the poor and to take actions that will bring hope and an end to hunger.

Two web sites offer ideas, activities, and information about World Food Day:

<http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/en/>
<http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/>

Several resources for worship are included with this edition of the Hunger News. See also www.elca.org/hunger/resources

I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The gospel text for October 11 is Mark 10:17-31. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. (v. 25).

Consider the following hymns:

ELW 655 or LBW 364 Son of God, eternal Savior
ELW 678 or LBW 408 God, whose giving knows no ending
ELW 477 or WOV 700 I received the living God

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REFLECTION on MARK 10:17-31

It probably came as quite a shock for someone who had an abundance of possessions to be told that he was lacking in something. Could we imagine a person with a huge estate, an expensive vacation home, and a private jet as lacking in anything? Yet it is possible to be rich in material possessions and still found to be lacking.

You cannot always buy health or long life. You cannot buy friendships that will be forever loyal, no matter what. You cannot buy assurance that all your property will be free from earthquakes, fires, or hurricanes. Even with an enormous bank account, it is impossible to buy genuine happiness. It is also impossible to buy eternal life.

According to Jesus our possessions can get in the way of our true goals. Giving away money will likely not earn anyone more lucrative clients or help amass any personal fortunes. That is precisely the point. Only when things that crowd our lives are shoved aside can we begin to focus on genuine Christian service and on ultimate rewards. Quite paradoxically, we find that in order to have the most important thing, we must divest ourselves of every other thing we have. Jesus says that we start by giving our lives to the poor.

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### ***Bringing Hope and Help***

The Tour de Revs and The Lutheran Youth Challenge have focused attention this summer on the needs of the poor and how ELCA World Hunger Appeal (WHA) brings HOPE and HELP.

June 2009 was the largest giving month ever, followed closely by July. To date, the number of gifts received is the highest ever. Hopefully these trends will continue and the WHA will reach the 2009 goal of \$18.7 million.

Watch for the new Good Gifts Catalog to be mailed in October.

Thank you for EVERYTHING you do to share God's grace by helping people who are in need.

Pr. Dan Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger Appeal

SYNOD  
**Hunger News**

Page 2



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## CLOSING PRAYERS

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve all persons throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this their daily bread, and by our understanding, give love and peace and joy. Amen.

*Mother Theresa*

*Almighty God, grant us grace to share our abundance that others may live. Strengthen us to work against ignorance, injustice, and indifference. Help us to heal the broken in body and spirit. Fill our hearts and minds with desire for the welfare of all people; and lead us to understand your will and to seek your kingdom and your righteousness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Charles Cesaretti, National Hunger Task Force  
Episcopal Church*

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Members of your Synod Hunger Team:

Pr. Mike Anderson
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Sylvia Stouten
Vern Tolles
Kathy Young

If you are concerned about hunger in the world, if you have time to give, consider becoming a member of our Team.

Our mission is to carry out hunger education and advocacy, support congregations in their hunger ministries, and work to expand our Synod's support of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

We meet 4-5 times/year in East Lansing or via teleconference. Won't you join us?

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