



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Partners in Christ,

"God Work, Our Hands" remains such a clear encouragement for our ministries together. I write this note in during Lent, as we observe rituals of sacrifice, repentance and generosity in this Holy Season.

Christ, through our Hunger Task Force, challenges us again to see Him and serve Him, by feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked (Matt. 25:34). The Noisy Change energy has proven to be so effective in responding to Jesus' call, our Synod will have a 3rd "Noisy Change Offering" at our spring Assembly. Last year more than \$ 19,000 was raised, to support both the ELCA World Hunger Program and six local food ministries.

The Hunger Task Force has embarked on two exciting next ventures, including "**Round Two of the 100,000 meal assembly/delivery**" AND a **Mini-grants program** for new and existing ministries on our territory. You will hear more at the Synod Assembly, as we do more and more together on our synod territory to combat hunger. Feel free to contact Pastor Melton or others on the Task Force.

BECAUSE of these expanded local hunger ministries to be implemented with the Hunger Task Force, we will be using the proceeds of this 3rd Noisy Change Offering for the ELCA World Hunger Program.

The Task Force recommends the following as we prepare for our Assembly Noisy Change Offering:

- 1) Pray about participation and guidance. What is God saying to you?
- 2) If you proceed, set a date.
- 3) Promote the Noisy Change Sunday(s) with ELCA materials. (www.elca.org , go to Resources, and scroll down 5 categories to ELCA World Hunger.
- 4) Encourage people to save their change for a month or so in advance.
- 5) On the day(s) of the offering use empty coffee cans. Have youth help to collect. Show an ELCA video about world hunger.
- 6) Have extra tellers for your congregation – to count and roll the many coins.
- 7) Bring \$20.00 in change to the Synod Assembly, and either mail your check to the Synod (MARK it Noisy Change) or bring the check to the Assembly.

There is so much conflict and judgmental comment these days about people from other lands, especially the poor and impoverished. Let's send a strong Christ centered message that God loves ALL people, and particularly cares for the poor. **Let's partner again with the ELCA World Hunger Program.**

God's Peace,

The Rev. William J. Gohl, Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA