

Resolution 2022-2: ELCA World Hunger Ministry

- WHEREAS, 811 million people in our world are chronically hungry; and after a steady decline in the percent of hungry people for two decades, hunger rose again 9.9% from 2019 to 2020, a crisis driven largely by national conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic¹; and
- WHEREAS, approximately 3.1 million children die each year from lack of nutrition; every hour of every day, 300 children die because of lack of nutrition²; and
- WHEREAS, there had been hope and progress in reducing hunger in recent decades, such that the proportion of malnourished people declined globally from 15% of the world's population to 8.9% by 2019³; and
- WHEREAS, one in every seven children in Maryland and one in every six in Delaware live in food insecure households⁴; and
- WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger ministry responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and in 56 countries by addressing root causes through a comprehensive program of relief, advocacy, sustainable development, community organizing and networking by which people are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty⁵; and
- WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger ministry responds to Christ's call to find, serve and feed him in "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV), and John the Baptist challenges us to share our shirts and our food with those in need (Luke 3:11); and
- WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger ministry through its Domestic Hunger Grant program has approved and is presently funding five synodical hunger ministries, each over a three year period, up to \$10,000 per year per ministry - (Amazing Grace LC, Baltimore; Churches for Streets of Hope, Essex, Md; Christ LC, LaVale, Md; The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Columbia, Md; and North Avenue Mission, Baltimore); and
- WHEREAS, the Delaware-Maryland Synod, through the Hunger Task Force has raised and distributed over \$132,000.00 in the past five years, that supported feeding

¹ www.actionagainsthunger.org

² www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/

³ www.actionagainsthunger.org

⁴ www.FeedingAmerica.org/hunger-in-America

⁵ <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger>

ministries in Delaware and Maryland, with Mass Meal Assembly, direct grants and Hunger Matching Grants, demonstrating the synod's commitment to feed the hungry locally, while it also emphasizes our commitment to serve Christ globally; and

WHEREAS, with joy and celebration the Delaware-Maryland Synod, through individuals and congregations, continued to support the ELCA World Hunger ministry with \$438,311 in 2021, the most in any recent year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Delaware-Maryland Synod rededicate themselves to supporting the ELCA World Hunger Ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations pray about and challenge themselves to take at least one additional concrete measurable step to increase their support for and awareness of those in need through the ELCA World Hunger ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each congregation prayerfully consider implementing the ELCA "Good Gifts Program" during Advent 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our synod churches implement an "ELCA WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY," preferably on the Sunday prior to Advent, November 20th, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Hunger Task Force of the DE-MD Synod assist congregations in identifying educational materials and supporting our churches efforts to implement the above resolves; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Hunger Task Force present a report to the 2023 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly concerning the progress made with Advent Good Gifts Program Giving and the overall growth in giving of our synod to the ELCA World Hunger Ministry.

Respectfully submitted:

The Rev. Fred Melton

Dr. Paul Walker

Claudia Harrington

Chair, Hunger Task Force, DE-MD Synod

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Hunger Task Force Members

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Jefferson, Maryland

The Rev. Roland Hobbs

Rob Gurnee

Executive Director, Lutheran Community Services
in Delaware

The Rev. David Asendorf

The Rev. Matthew Fuhrman

Salem Lutheran Church, Catonsville, Maryland

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Rosedale,
Maryland

The Rev. David Simpson

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Frederick,
Maryland

The Rev. Dr. Lisa Arrington

St. John Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Maryland

The Reve. Mike Louia

First Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, Maryland

Reference & Counsel Recommendation: Pass