

More about WHA Sunday!

By Pr. Mark Huffman

At the 2004 Synod Assembly, voting members unanimously approved a resolution designating November 21 as this year's World Hunger Appeal Sunday. On that Sunday congregations across the synod are invited and encouraged to lift up the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and/or its partner, Baltimore-based Lutheran World Relief. Through sermons, temple talks, prayers, and bulletin materials, the ministry and mission of these agencies can be celebrated and supported. This would be a great opportunity to take a special offering to be sent to the Hunger Appeal or Lutheran World Relief, or to distribute Hunger Appeal envelopes, free by calling (800)638-3522, ext. 2764, for worshippers to send in themselves.

Certainly the need is great. Though it has received scant media attention during the past year, urgent food insecurity continues in Africa, caused by drought and erratic rains and exacerbated by civil strife. The UN says that millions of people are at risk in southern Africa including Namibia, Ethiopia and Eritrea – and Haiti, Iraq and the Middle East are in need of assistance. At the same time the underlying crisis of world hunger continues: 800 million people lack the basic food they need, day-in and day-out. In our own country, many of our feeding centers are struggling to assist increased numbers of people.

By giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran World Relief, you both feed those who hunger and help families and communities break the cycle of poverty that causes hunger. Simple things make a world of difference: irrigation and clean water, agricultural and marketing training, basic health care, advocacy and education.

All congregations should have received from the ELCA World Hunger Appeal a packet of materials with samples of bulletin inserts, posters, worship ideas and stories about world hunger that can be used in lifting up this vital service to God's children in need. Additional materials can be ordered or found by calling the Hunger Appeal or by visiting their Web site www.elca.org/hunger.

Resources for lifting up and participating in the ministry of Lutheran World Relief can be obtained by calling 1(800)LWR-LWR2 or going to their Web site, www.lwr.org.



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