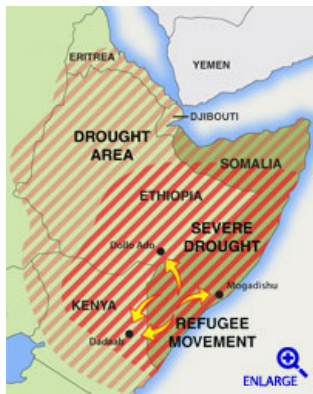


## Drought In Africa Has Millions At Risk of Famine

Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and other countries in the Horn of Africa and the East Africa region are experiencing the worst drought in 60 years. Two years of sporadic rain – and the driest year since 1951 – have resulted in severely reduced access to drinking water and major crop and livestock loss. The UN estimates that 11.6 million people are at risk, including 2.2 million malnourished children. 500,000 of these children face imminent life-threatening conditions. In hard hit areas, like southcentral Somalia, masses of people are leaving their homes in order to meet their basic needs of food and water.

The overall impact of this crisis stretches across the entire East Africa region. On the eastern border of Kenya, at the Dadaab refugee complex, over 1,300 new refugees, mainly from Somalia, arrive daily. In southern Ethiopia, an estimated 2,000 Somali refugees arrive daily, seeking refuge in Dolo Odo. In both camps, immediate needs are being met by the Lutheran World Federation, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In Dadaab the incoming refugees are adding to the camp's over-population of nearly 400,000 residents, in facilities that were originally intended to hold 90,000 people. The consistently high influx of new arrivals has caused the camp to expand beyond its borders, leading to increased tensions between refugees and the local population, particularly as the continued drought makes water ever scarcer for both. Officials also report that refugees are arriving at the camps severely exhausted, with the malnutrition level within new arrivals reaching 15%. In both countries, local populations are also struggling with the effects of the drought. In Ethiopia alone, 4.5 million people are in need of food assistance.



Over the coming months, this region-wide humanitarian crisis will require a huge commitment from the global community to stave off a major famine. The ELCA will continue to gather resources and work with and through partners and companions to meet people's needs in this humanitarian crisis.

### What you can do:

**Pray:** The act of leaving home in search of the resources of life can be a terrifying and exhausting activity, with some people moving as far as 300 miles on foot. Please keep these people in your prayers, that God will continue to oversee their journey and will be with all those working to keep at bay the greater impacts of this disaster.

**Study and Share:** As you follow the situation in secular media, please check out these other resources for stories of how the ELCA and its companions are engaging in the situation.

**Give:** Gifts to ELCA Disaster Response help provide immediate and effective support to communities which are in need. Please consider giving to support the needs of this response and others like it. For more information, go to the ELCA web site, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).



## ELCA Assembly Officially Launches the ELCA Malaria Campaign

Every 45 seconds a child dies from malaria, a preventable and treatable disease. Now the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will join with Lutheran churches in Africa, to work toward a malaria-free future. This effort is part of the ELCA Malaria Campaign, officially launched by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly Aug. 15 by a 968-19 vote. A goal of the campaign is to raise \$15 million over a four-year period. With 1,025 voting members, the Churchwide Assembly is the ELCA's largest legislative authority.

"Throughout our life as the ELCA, we have focused our work with our global partners around the concept of accompaniment, our relationships with companion churches all over the world," said the Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl as she introduced the campaign to voting members. DeGroot-Nesdahl is the campaign's coordinator.



Rev. DeGroot-Nesdahl continued, "Poverty, hunger, disease—they all go together, so we find malaria more prevalent where poverty and hunger are evident. That's where our relationship can make a difference. We stand beside (and partner with) those who suffer with malaria, those who are hungry, (and) those who live in poverty," she said. ELCA members also seek to partner with African Lutheran companion churches in bringing healing and justice to our world. It is Lutheran relationships of accompaniment that bring us to this moment of launching the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The world is calling us together, to this moment, to this effort, because of our relationships -- church to church, people to God.

The Rev. Daniel Rift, director of ELCA World Hunger, told the assembly that the campaign will help Lutheran churches in 11 countries in Africa. "Malaria is not something to which a child should be resigned," Rift told the assembly. "We can do better than that—as a church and as a people. For me, that is the image I'll take with me when one might ask, 'Why the ELCA Malaria Campaign?'"

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is a major fundraising effort of the church under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger. The assembly recommended that the campaign be developed to complement efforts of ELCA World Hunger "to achieve and grow" beyond its own annual goals.



The Southern Ohio Synod, along with 5 other synods, served as pilot synods when the campaign was launched in 2010. The pilot synods worked to develop ways and means, determine strategies, and make suggestions as to best practices in fundraising activities. Hopefully, what the pilot synods learned will help other synods in their effort to raise money to fight the disease over the next four years. The campaign continues until 2015. Free resources are available.

For new resources and information about malaria, such as the materials shown, visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) or visit the synod's website, [www.southernohiosynod.org](http://www.southernohiosynod.org), and click on malaria resources.

## Bread For the World Has New Staff in Dayton Office

The position of North Central field organizer is now occupied by Jon Gromek. Jon recently started with Bread for the World in May and has enjoyed hitting the ground running, traveling and meeting activists across the region. Prior to joining Bread, he served as head organizer of Leaders for Equality and Action in Dayton (LEAD), a local congregation-based community organization. Jon has worked at faith-based advocacy organizations for more than four years including NETWORK, a national Catholic social justice lobby, and Sojourners. He is Ohio born, having spent his formative years in Cleveland, and attended Xavier University in Cincinnati before starting his career in organizing. In his spare time, he loves to cook, read, hike, and is an avid hockey fan.



Jon is thrilled to join this amazing organization and can't wait to build on the amazing work already being done by Bread activists across the region.

Over the last year, local Bread Teams have strengthened advocacy efforts and begun to make a major difference in their impact on Congress. Teams focus on the core elements of Bread's approach:

- reaching out to invite more churches and campuses into Bread activism;
- meeting regularly with members of Congress and their staff;
- getting visibility in local media; and organizing themselves for accountability and action through effective leadership and regular meetings

## Ohio Hunger By the Numbers

In a recent study, it was found that 1 in 4 families in Ohio did not have enough food to put on the table. The study, released by the Food Research and Action Center said Ohio ranked 20<sup>th</sup> overall in the nation for food hardship. The study also ranked the 100 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas for food hardship and found that seven of the 100 cities were located in Ohio. As far as troubled metropolitan areas are concerned, Ohio ranked 48<sup>th</sup>. Only California and Florida had more troubled metropolitan areas.

Reasons given for Ohio's low ranking were unemployment, heads of household earning minimum wages, and decreased hours of working time for those employed. The elderly and young children are the most vulnerable.

Ohio food pantry workers are very concerned about the upcoming winter. Food resources are usually down in the winter when there are no garden vegetables available. Food shortages are already in evidence as a result of all the natural disasters which have occurred over the past summer. As one food pantry director stated, "The coming season will be a very bleak winter for many in Ohio, and no one seems to have a good answer as to how to solve the problem."

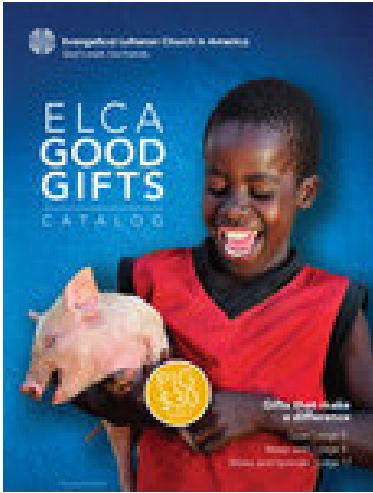
## New Website for Potlucks to End World Hunger

Pastor Mike Poole reports the "new" website for Potlucks to End World Hunger became effective September 15. The newly designed page is easier to navigate and provides a wealth of information about world hunger. The new website URL is <http://www.potluckstoendworldhunger.org/>. He also reports this year's Hunger Huddle will be held in Atlanta, Friday October 21st through Saturday October 22nd. The host is the Southeastern Synod. Check that synod's website for further details: <http://www.elca-ses.org/>

## ELCA Hunger Materials Available

### A New ELCA Good Gifts Catalog

Thinking ahead to the coming holidays, ELCA Good Gifts make great gifts for your loved ones and carry that love on to others, making a difference in their lives and the world. The new 24-page Good Gifts catalog offers more than 50 unique, meaningful gifts that support favorite ELCA ministries—like World Hunger, Disaster Response, and the Malaria Campaign—and honor loved ones at the same time.



Among the new gifts are the alpaca, a smaller relative of the llama, that for \$175 can provide a family living in poverty with soft fleece to make into clothing to sell at the marketplace. A gift of just \$270 could provide an operation to restore sight to the blind. Or, a gift of just \$25 is enough to provide medication to treat 25 people with malaria. With all these gifts, there's something for everyone.

Shop Good Gifts or order the catalog at [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts).



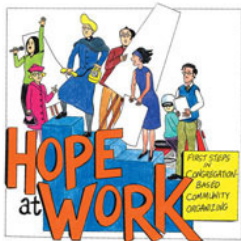
### ELCA Good Gifts Stickers

Use these ELCA Good Gifts stickers to adorn cards and packages and let friends and loved ones know about the ELCA Good Gifts that have been given in their honor. Stickers measure 1.5" in diameter. There are 12 stickers per sheet. Order online at [www.elca.org/resources](http://www.elca.org/resources).

### World Hunger Resource Packet

A New World Hunger Resource Packet has already been mailed to all ELCA congregations. The Hunger Packet is published twice a year to help congregational hunger leaders raise money for and awareness about ELCA World Hunger. Each packet is free and contains *Congregation Connections*, Reproducible Stories, and samples of additional new and updated resources. Check with your church office to see the packet and get ideas on how to “jump start” a new hunger campaign.

### Congregation-Based Organizing Comic Book



[www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org) is a comic book that follows the lives of two Hope Church lay leaders and their pastor as they listen to the joys and concerns of church members and neighbors and then explore ways to respond with public action. The issue they work to address is food availability for all in their community. 32 pages, \$3 per copy. To order, go to [www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org) and choose the Faith In Action section. The comic book is found in the Justice subsection.

### God's Global Barnyard Stickers

Use these stickers to adorn cards and packages and let friends and loved ones know about the ELCA Good Gifts that have been given in their honor. Stickers vary in size. There are 22 stickers per sheet. The Stickers are free and may be ordered online from ELCA Hunger Resources



## Congregations in Action

### Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbus

Members of Redeemer Lutheran in Columbus continue to distribute veggies from their garden on Saturday mornings. Throughout the summer they have had as many as 40 people attend the "give-away." As the harvest dwindles, all the produce was usually gone within 10 minutes. Several Saturdays, veggies were brought by neighbors from their gardens to put on the give-away table. The people who came offered a word of thanks and often "God bless you."



In August the garden was bordered by some sunflowers, so the birds were also fed.



### Adamsville Lutheran Parish, Adamsville New Hope and Zion Churches

Pastor Mary Molnar reports New Hope Lutheran Church, Adamsville, is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. As a part of the year-long celebration, three floats depicting the three buildings that have housed the congregation were constructed, and became part of the annual Adamsville Homecoming parade.

When the floats received first prize, the church council voted to give the prize money to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, with the prayer that a few more children would be protected from the dread disease.

Pictured are the three floats and the tractors that pulled them in the parade.

### Christ The King, Lutheran Church, West Chester

"Skeeter" pictured here, provided a captivating visual aid for the Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> graders for the duration of the Logos program at Christ The King. Skeeter helped to inform the children about the dangers of malaria, how it spread, and why it was so important to help others.



A "Nickels for Nets" campaign was also conducted, complete with the construction of an African hut, surrounded by stuffed African animals. A mosquito net was hung covering a little African baby doll, wrapped in a Lutheran World Relief quilt. Dinner tables were set around the hut so there was plenty of time to absorb the scene and think about what it must be like to live so differently. A question and answer session attempted to further explain malaria and the Malaria Campaign.

After seven months, Lisa Ehlert, Logos Coordinator, reports the children brought in change they had saved in their "nets" and added it to the designated "Nickels for Nets" container which was closely guarded by Skeeter. By the end of the year, the Logos kids had collected \$166.60 to contribute to the total campaign of \$1126.60.

## Lord of Life and Christ The King, West Chester

Lord of Life and Christ the King as well as other area churches in West Chester participated once again in the Summer Lunch Program as part of Lakota Success in the Lakota School System. The children who were invited to participate are the children who receive free lunches during the school year.

Joan Riggle, a former Hunger Task Force member, reports the response this year was almost overwhelming. Last year 35-40 lunches were served. This summer, because of the economic situation, the churches expected to serve around 80. However, there was even a greater response and 140-150 lunches a day were served, for a two week period at each church.

The children who were to be served were identified by the various school liaisons and applications were sent home near the end of the school year. Lunches are then prepared at the churches and taken to designated distribution points. This year the designated distribution point was Lakota Pointe Apartments, and the program mutually benefitted everyone involved. It was a great fellowship experience for the congregations, a good way to interact with the children, and do something good for our community.

Joan adds, "It was an amazing experience and a lesson in trust and faith that it would happen. AND IT DID."

\* \* \* \* \*

## Want to help end childhood hunger next summer??

Now is the time to begin preparations to become a site for children in your area in 2012. Ohio has enormous need for summer food programs for school children.

During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. What happens when school lets out? Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again. Hunger also may make children more prone to illness and other health issues.

The Summer Food Service Program is designed to fill that nutrition gap and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need. **Contact the Ohio Department of Education** for information about becoming a site, receiving a grant to operate a site, and other ways to help the children in your local school district.

The Summer School Food Program is funded by grants from the United States Department of Agriculture.



**Hunger Task Force Members :** Rev. Henry Zorn, chair; Rev. Glen Bengson; David Drumm; Rev. John Eilert; Rev. Ruth Fortis; Rev. Joene Herr; Lora Jollis; Rev. Mary Molnar ; Rev. Mike Poole; Rev. Monte Stevens; Kathleen Zwanziger; Rev. William McKee, synod staff; Susan Truchses, newsletter editor