



Hope and Rememberance

For All the Saints

November 1 or 8, 2020

SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON SYNOD

October 18, 2020

CONTENTS:

Letter to congregations from the Synod Hunger Committee

Information on ELCA World Hunger

Service suggestions:

All Saints Sunday: November 1, Common Lectionary

All Saints Sunday: November 1, Narrative Lectionary

November 8, Common Lectionary

November 8, Narrative Lectionary

Additional Resources

Service of Hope and Remembrance

Remembering what was lost, as we also lift-up hope for the future

In this packet you will find resources to conduct a worship service on November 1 or November 8, along with information for a special ELCA World Hunger/Lutheran Disaster Response Offering.

2020 is the year no one saw coming; the pandemic and an economic crash/recession were not where we anticipated the year going. That so much of the country remains divided on the best way to respond to these twin crises has made things harder for many people who are simply struggling to keep their heads above water

To help congregations and communities around the country address the deep and complex needs presented by the current situation, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA have distributed grants to help congregations. ELCA World Hunger gave small “Daily Bread” hunger matching grants to congregation- intended to help provide support for feeding ministries-hot meal sites and church based food banks.

Additional funds from Lutheran Disaster Response and ELCA COVID-19 Response Funds were distributed to twenty-six of our congregations. Because of the long-standing relationships that ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response have built within communities and with neighbors, the infrastructure and trust in place were effective in helping to quickly respond to needs as they arose.

As all this was happening, congregations around our synod plunged forward, caring for their neighbors in a variety of ways. Food packs were distributed to children who could no longer access free lunches at school; food banks dramatically increased the number of people they served, even as they lost volunteers who might be at high risk to Covid-19; and hot meal sites found new ways to safely provide meals to those in need. The work of congregations throughout our region has been a blessing for their communities. They are truly heroes in a day and age with seemingly few heroes.

As well, too many of our members left us over the past year. Some died from Covid-19. Others passed away for other reasons at a time when we could not gather to say goodbye.

We are asking congregations around Southwestern Washington Synod to use their service on November 1 or November 8 to honor those who were heroes, and those whom we lost. This packet contains materials to help you plan a service of **Hope and Remembrance**. In the coming weeks, you will be provided with additional information, including homilies using both the Common Lectionary and the Narrative Lectionary. These will be on video, so you can plug them into your online service in a similar way to the sermons provided by Synod staff in recent weeks.

As part of this service, **we request an offering to support ELCA World Hunger/Lutheran Disaster Response.** The after-effects of the pandemic and economic recession are not going away overnight, and too many people continue to struggle. **If you have any questions contact Allison Ramsey at the Southwestern Washington Synod office at swwsynod@plu.edu**

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry or at risk of hunger.

And that was before a global pandemic struck. Today we know that resources are stretched, support is limited, and more people are hungry than a year ago. National and international experts warn that parts of our world are in danger of experiencing extreme hunger and starvation in the coming months.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Whatever the long-term consequences of the pandemic will be, they will not be good news for people at risk of hunger. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations released its annual State of Food Security and Nutrition report in July 2020 and they are estimating that 83-121 million people will be added to the total number of people who are chronically hungry by the end of this year. That is an astounding number. For reference, there are about 690 million people now who are hungry and undernourished. This means that we could see that number climb to as many as 830 million by next year.

You can learn more at the ELCA World Hunger Web Site: <https://www.elca.org/hunger>

Hunger facts

- Up to 830 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to be healthy.
- According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2018 (the most recent year available), more than 37 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 41.85 million Americans were living in poverty in 2018 For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,701, with Native Americans (25.4%) and African Americans (20.8%) having the highest poverty rates.

This packet of information was created to support congregations in the Southwestern Washington Synod as we worship together and celebrate the work of ELCA World Hunger.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - Common Lectionary

READINGS: Revelation 7:9-17	God will Wipe Every Tear from their eyes
Psalm 34:1-10, 22	Taste and See that God is Good
1 John 3:1-3	See what great love the Father has
Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes

Color: White

Suggested Hymns: (ELW) We acknowledge that it may not be safe to have the congregation sing hymns if they are meeting in person. As this material is being created, we do not know what gatherings will be like come November.

- #422 - For All The Saints
- #436 - Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
- #785 - When Peace Like a River
- #780 - Shepherd Me Oh Lord
- #728 - Blest are they (ties to the Gospel Reading)
- #723 - Canticle of Turning
- #725 - When the Poor Ones
- #726 - Light Dawns on a Weary World

Suggested Prayer: God of abundance, out of the dust you brought forth plants and animals of every shape and kind and you call your abundance good. You created humanity in your image as stewards of your good creation. Guide us today as we learn to share this abundance with the whole of humanity so that in your world of richness everyone may have enough. (ELCA World Hunger)

SERMON/HOMILY AVAILABILITY: A sermon/homily by a member of the Synod Hunger Committee will be sent as an MP4 by October 20; we will also send you a link to ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starters when it becomes available.

Blessing: Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore our sure defense, and help us to know that the name given to us for health, healing and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Alternative Blessing: We are not a voice for the voiceless; for all have a voice, even as the world seeks to drown them out. Go forth and listen for their cry in the wilderness, so that you may amplify it.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - Narrative Lectionary

READING: 1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]

God's care for those on the margins

Luke 4:24- 26

No prophet is accepted in their own land

Color: White

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#422 - For All The Saints

#436 - Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

#785 - When Peace Like a River

#780 - Shepherd Me Oh Lord

#798 - Will you come and follow me (The Summons) (tie to the readings)

#723 - Canticle of Turning

#725 - When the Poor Ones

#726 - Light Dawns on a Weary World

Suggested Prayer: Heavenly Father, it is in your always offered grace through Christ that we find mercy for our mistakes, and a call to transform our world. Grant us the courage of the widow, to share what we have, and continued faith in God's never-ending abundance of love

SERMON/HOMILY AVAILABILITY: A sermon/homily by a member of the Synod Hunger Committee will be sent as an MP4 by October 20; we will also send you a link to ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starters when it becomes available.

Blessing: God, we call to mind all who are easy to forget. May your holy and life giving spirit be in every human heart, that the barriers between us may crumble, and hatred cease; and that healed, we may live in justice and peace; through your son Jesus Christ.

Alternative Blessing: Almighty God, as leave this worship and return to the world, help us to uncomfortably remember those who we try to forget: the hungry, the homeless, the mentally ill, and those who face discrimination each day. Help us to see Christ in all we meet.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2020 - Common Lectionary

READINGS: Amos 5:18-24 Let Justice Roll Like a River
 Psalm 70 Hasten Oh God to Save Me
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 On Believers whom have died
 Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the Ten Virgins

Color: Green

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#247 - Come now oh Prince of Peace
#785 - When Peace Like a River
#780 - Shepherd Me Oh Lord
#723 - Canticle of Turning
#725 - When the Poor Ones
#726 - Light Dawns on a Weary World
#543 - Go My Children with My Blessing

Suggested Prayer: (adapted from the ELW) Grant oh God that your holy and life giving spirit move in every human heart; that the barriers dividing us crumble so that we may unite. That the hatred dividing us may dissolve, that fear may disappear, and that we may begin to heal. Help us to see our neighbor, no matter who they are, through your eyes, with love, mercy and compassion.

SERMON/HOMILY AVAILABILITY: A sermon/homily by a member of the Synod Hunger Committee will be sent as an MP4 by October 20; we will also send you a link to ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starters, which are on the resources page.

Blessing: Merciful God, accompany and renew us on our journey. Guide us day by day, that we may provide for those who hunger for food, for acceptance, and for salvation. Remind us day in and day out that our greatest treasure is the life given to us through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

Alternative Blessing: Do not be dismayed by a broken world; the world has always been broken. We are here to mend that which we can and walk with that we cannot heal. So go, and love unconditionally, as Christ has loved us.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2020 - Narrative Lectionary

READINGS: Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]

Jonah flees from God, community

Luke 18:13

God have mercy on me, a sinner

Color: Green

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Additional Resources

We want to thank you for taking the time to review these materials, which we hope you will use in your planning for November 1 or November 8.

In the meantime, we have compiled a short list of additional resources.

ELCA World Hunger: Since the creation of the ELCA, there has been a World Hunger program. There is a wealth of information and resources, including Sunday School material, VBS material, and seasonal worship support created specifically for Lutheran churches. You can visit the web site at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger>

Bread for the World: Our partner in fighting for peace and justice, Bread for the World is a faith-based advocacy organization that focuses on legislation that promotes justice and peace. You can visit the web site at <https://www.bread.org/>

Lutheran Disaster Response: Another program of the ELCA, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support and relief in the USA and around the world to those who are recovering from natural disasters, including the Covid-19 crisis. Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

ELCA World Hunger blog posts on hunger: <https://blogs.elca.org/worldhunger/> Read 2 blog posts- "Can You Flee a Pandemic? Four Lessons from Luther", and "Four Ways COVID-19 May Impact Hunger."

ELCA World Hunger Sermon Starters Blog: <https://blogs.elca.org/blog/tag/elca-world-hunger-sermon-starters/>

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION AROUND THE WORLD IN 2020

http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/online/ca9692en.html#chapter-1_1

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continued

Faith Action Network- ELCA and Ecumenical Advocacy <https://fanwa.org/>

Pastor Paul Benz

benz@fanwa.org

Lutheran Community Services Northwest <https://lcsnw.org/>

Offices in Bremerton, Tacoma and Vancouver WA

Administrative Office 206-901-1685

World Mission Prayer League <https://wmpl.org/>

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services <https://www.lirs.org/>

Paths to Understanding (Bridging bias and building unity through multi-faith peacemaking;
includes Neighbors in Faith) <https://pathstounderstanding.org/>

Pastor Terry Kyлло, Exec Dir

Feeding America <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>

Bread for the World

<https://www.bread.org/>

continued

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

Women of the ELCA

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Lutheran World Federation

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**Watch your email for our November and December Devotional Booklets, and for
Advent Resources!**

