

## Top 10 Ideas from NJ Synod Congregations

The ELCA World Hunger Program is well-recognized as very efficient and effective, helping people around the world and here in the US climb out of poverty, improve community access to water, food, education, health care and conflict resolution. Yet many of our congregations do not support this program as strongly as we might expect.

The NJ Synod Hunger Task Group phoned 31 NJ Synod congregations of a variety of sizes with strong World Hunger giving records to ask how they do it. Check out the top 10 replies below for ideas to strengthen your own congregation's World Hunger giving. You can also find more ideas at [www.njsynod.org/justice](http://www.njsynod.org/justice). Contact Hunger Task Group Chair Pastor Christine Regan at [saintstephens@verizon.net](mailto:saintstephens@verizon.net) to meet with representatives of one of these congregations to dialogue on ways to increase World Hunger giving.

1 – Emphasize ELCA World Hunger Program year-round in sermons, announcements, prayers, and also do special pushes.

2 – Commit a specific amount of money or percentage of undesignated income for World Hunger in annual budget.

3 – Pastor speaks out about the World Hunger Program both for its high rating of effectiveness and as part of our call to help the poor.

4 – World Hunger envelopes mingled in with offering envelopes throughout year, and also in pews and mailings.

5 – Invite people to pledge World Hunger donations as part of annual pledge drive for general offering.

6 -- Use fun special events from ELCA Hunger Packet with all proceeds going to World Hunger Program, such as Souperbowl of Caring, Team Competition for Good Gifts, Fish Farm, Hunger Banquet, Fair Trade Crafts Fair, Youth Spaghetti Dinner, Coffeeshours, Quarter Mile of Quarters...

7 – Include World Hunger program in devotions and studies such as Advent, Lent, Adult Forum, Youth Forum, Hunger Banquet, Offering of Letters, Travel Story Sharing Times...

8 – Relationships with local needy people helps congregation relate to people in need of other countries. Local and international ministries strengthen each other.

9 – Special annual focus led by a committee with strong pastoral involvement over a specific period of time (such as Lent, or a month).

10 – Use World Hunger materials year-round such as posters, bulletin inserts, envelopes, and reproducible stories.