



# GO AND DO NEWS

December 2014

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Let us know what you think! Monthly communications survey

Journeys: Congregational Support in 2015

Coming soon! Peer-to-Peer Fundraising

## #ELCAWH15

ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering

Extravaganza 2015

WebEx Cancellation

## By the numbers:

*Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*

Fundraising Consultations Available

Staff directory

## From Dan's desk: *Where is Jesus?*

Dear ELCA World Hunger Leaders and Friends,

In our house, we collect nativity scenes. They are unique, deeply reflective of the culture where they were created, and the ones we select are both small and relatively inexpensive. The only problem is that the pieces are small and on many occasions you can hear me say to my wife, "We're missing a piece. Honey, where is Jesus?"

That has been my question this Advent. Where is Jesus; where does God choose to become incarnate? It really began on Christ the King Sunday, with the reading from Matthew 25: "Lord where did we see you...."

God chooses Bethlehem, a simple cross-road community. Today we work with the community in Bethlehem through training for employment and with Augusta Victoria Hospital, near the Mount of Olives.

God chooses a woman of the people, betrothed to a carpenter. Today much of our work is in integrated sustainable development focused on agriculture and in small business development (including carpentry).

God chooses a place of refuge (a stable), in a time when the people were forced to travel from their homes. Today our partnership with others in The Lutheran World Federation comprises the largest faith-based work with refugees and migration outside the United States.

God chooses shepherds and attracts kings. Today the hunger ministries of the ELCA create an opportunity for neighbors to gather, beyond our economic differences, at the table.

God chooses a moment in time, drawing together the past and setting the stage for the future. Today can be such a moment for each of us. We stand within a long journey of response to hunger and envision a day when hunger and poverty might be in the past.

Thank you for the ways that you participate in the God-chosen opportunities we share. Each new year (either liturgically or chronologically) becomes a time to thank God for what has been and affirm what is to come. For 2015, the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering, ELCA Youth Gathering (with a special emphasis on water), Peer-to-Peer fundraising opportunities, new study material, the conclusion of the ELCA Malaria Campaign, a renewed set of activities for congregations engaging with ELCA World Hunger, and much more. And in the end, throughout the year, we will continue to be guided by the same question, "Where is Jesus"? He gave us more than a few hints as to where that might be!



The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

## Let us know what you think!

This month's edition of *Go and Do News* marks one year of *monthly communications with our network!* As we look forward to 2015, we hope to make our monthly communication even more tailored to your interests. We are asking for your feedback on our WebEx network meetings and *Go and Do News* as we develop our plans for next year. **Please take a moment to share your thoughts through this brief survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZS6HNSR>. And, as always, if you have any stories or feedback to share, you can email [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).

## Coming soon!

### Peer-to-Peer Fundraising

Have you ever wanted to donate your birthday, anniversary, marathon run or bike ride earnings to ELCA World Hunger? In the new year, ELCA World Hunger will be launching a new "peer-to-peer" fundraising tool to help you do all that and more! Peer-to-peer fundraising is on the rise, and soon you will be able to share the word about ELCA World Hunger and invite your friends, family and congregation to support the cause, too — all through an easy-to-use platform.

This tool will be rolled out first to support ELCA World Hunger's presence at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit around "ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water." More information about that specific effort will be coming in your next congregational resource packet. We will also unveil tools at the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in January and on the monthly WebEx meetings as soon as possible. Stay tuned! You'll want to be in on this!



## Journeys:

### Congregational Support in 2015

*In those days a decree went out ... All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary ... (Luke 2:1-5).*



What was that holy journey really like? We often picture Mary and Joseph on the road alone, travelling for a week or more, Mary on a donkey, Joseph carrying their belongings – or maybe they were jostling along amid a whole crowd heading home to Bethlehem.

According to Good Morning America, 45 million of us will travel by air this Christmas. And, perhaps you are taking a break from packing to read this. Or, are you one of the ones opening your hearts and doors in welcome? I'll be home for Christmas, but travel is on my mind today because come January, I'll be on the road to meet with you and learn from you, dear Hunger Leaders!

As a new staff member focused on congregational support, I'm excited to visit you and your congregation, to hear your stories and see your projects, to greet the people on your hunger team – and, if you'd like, to tell you about my recent trip to Cameroon and the powerful difference your work is making there and in Central African Republic.

Would you like me to attend a special event, preach or teach on a particular Sunday? Please be in touch. Otherwise, I'm looking forward to contacting you in the new year!

Wishing you a holy journey to the manger, filled with the hope, light, peace and abundance that the Messiah brings for all the world. See you in 2015.

- Robin

*If you'd like Rev. Robin Brown or another ELCA World Hunger staff member to visit your congregation in 2015, contact [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org)*

## Congregations for Change: We Are Church Together ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering 2015

Jan. 15-18, 2015 in San Francisco, Calif.

Not able to attend the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering? You can still follow the action through our social media story at <https://storify.com/ELCAWorldHunger/elca-world-hunger-leadership-gathering> or search the official event hashtag **#ELCAWH15** on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram to see everything our network is up to in the Bay Area and around the country. Have a thought to share about the events from home? Tweet us back using the same hashtag.

## Join the "ELCA World Hunger Leaders and Friends" Facebook Group

More than 300 of your fellow ELCA World Hunger Leaders are already members of our Facebook group. The group is an opportunity for you to share about your congregation or synod's ELCA World Hunger activities, ask questions of your peers and share interesting articles about the issues of poverty, hunger and homelessness in the United States and internationally. Request membership at [www.facebook.com/groups/elcaworldhunger](http://www.facebook.com/groups/elcaworldhunger)



EXTRAVAGANZA 2015

## See you at Extravaganza!

Jan. 29-Feb. 2, 2015 in Detroit

ELCA World Hunger will once again be at the Youth Ministry Network's Extravaganza event in 2015. This year's gathering of ELCA youth and family ministers will be in Detroit, and ELCA World Hunger's own Mikka McCracken will be emcee for the event! This year we will also have several new resources available, including the updated Act 2Day 4 Tomorrow! More information and registration can be found at <http://www.elcaymnet.org/E2015>

# Thank you!

During the Christmas season of giving, we give thanks for you and your loyalty to the ministry of ELCA World Hunger and all you do to make a difference.

## WebEx: December WebEx Cancellation and January meeting date

We did not hold a network WebEx meeting in December. We are taking this month off from WebEx, but that does not mean we are taking this month off from ministry! Please be in touch if we can support YOU in your ministry during this final month of 2014.



### Next month's WebEx:

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015  
8:30 p.m. Eastern/7:30 p.m. Central/  
6:30 p.m. Mountain/5:30 p.m. Pacific

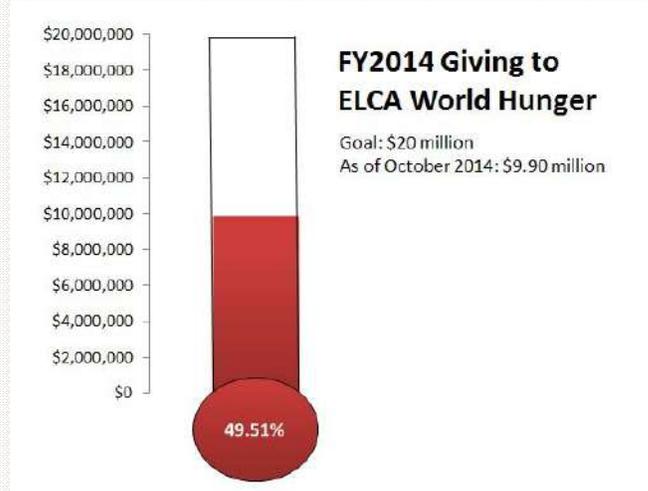
We'll resume our regular Network meetings in January, right after the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering. Be sure to attend the meeting to get the first inside look at our time in San Francisco.

If there are topics you'd like to hear more about in upcoming WebEx meetings, be sure to fill out this brief survey about our monthly network communications: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZS6HNSR>.

**By the numbers: The Campaign for the ELCA**

**Fundraising Consultations Available**

Are you considering setting synod goals during the years of *The Campaign for the ELCA*? We are eager to help! Starting with the Tips & Tools presented in January at the 2015 Hunger Leader Gathering – Fundraising Workshop, we are available to visit by phone or in person to support your Synod Hunger Team with reports, customized plans and ideas for how to organize during 2015-2018. Contact Nate Berkas at 773-380-2558 to schedule a consultation with our Chicago colleagues today!



<i>Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA — Totals as of the close of October 2014</i>	
<b>ELCA World Hunger</b> (toward <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i> goal of \$115 million by end of FY18)	\$9.90 million
<b>ELCA Malaria Campaign</b> (toward overall goal of \$15 million by end of FY15)	\$13.01 million
<b>Overall <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i></b> (toward overall goal of \$198 million by end of FY18)	\$30.12 million

**ELCA World Hunger Churchwide Organization Staff**

**ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal**

- Daniel Rift, director
- Sharon Magnuson, associate director
- Robin Brown, associate director
- Krystal McClinton, development assistant
- Nathan Berkas, development assistant

**Constituent Engagement**

- Mikka McCracken, program director
- Jessica Fairfax, coordinator
- Kelly Winters, assistant

**Hunger Education**

- Ryan Cumming, program director

**ELCA Malaria Campaign**

- Jessica Nipp Hacker, coordinator
- Allison Beebe, assistant

**Contact Us**

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Any staff member may be contacted directly by using this format: [firstname.lastname@elca.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@elca.org).

Join us in the  
 “[ELCA World Hunger Leaders and Friends](#)”  
 Facebook group.



**Order all of our resources online at:**  
[www.ELCA.org/resources](http://www.ELCA.org/resources).