



# GO AND DO NEWS

September 2015

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## From Vitaly's desk: In times of disaster—bridging the response gap

Dear ELCA World Hunger Leaders and Friends,

Lutheran Disaster Response – International has had a busy year. We have been involved in combating the Ebola outbreak in Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as post-Ebola recovery plans. In Nepal, we have been part of providing emergency food, water and temporary shelter for people effected by the earthquakes. Here in the United States, we have been confronting the issue of unaccompanied migrant children from

Central America, while also responding to the severe refugee crisis in Europe. There are many new challenges facing LDR-International, and we are so thankful for your ongoing support and leadership.

Our primary role is to support a global network of ecumenical partners and companion churches, to foster individual and community resilience and self-reliance in the face of disaster. This happens through the development of people's own capacity to cope with their basic needs. But what else sets us apart in our response and what is our growing edge?

In my experience, and as program director for LDR-International, I have learned that each emergency situation is unique. We are set apart in our response, because our work and response prioritizes and takes into account the many local factors and diversity of contextual situations.

In addition to prioritizing the local context, our growing edge comes from LDR-International's approach of coupling short-term and long-term response, especially in terms of resourcing. Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and other disasters taught us this important lesson, and we are already putting the learning into practice. LDR-International has shifted its focus from only a quick disaster response to a holistic and integrated approach. This methodology includes immediate response, but also bridges the gap to preparedness and rehabilitation, which address both the immediate and long-term humanitarian response.

Other examples of this growing approach in practice are in Nepal, the Philippines, Central African Republic and Serbia. In those places, our current funding supports lifesaving response activities, as well as intentional continued transitional livelihood activities that lead toward recovery and lasting development.

As more and more disasters, natural and human-made, occur, we must avoid fragmentation in our mission and ministry. We must do more to bridge the potential funding gaps between disaster and post-disaster situations. Into the future, it will be more important than ever to build collaboration between ELCA World Hunger's long-term sustainability work and Lutheran Disaster Response's holistic disaster response activities. That's a story we can all share.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Many blessings to you,

Dr. Vitaly Vorona  
Program Director Lutheran Disaster Response – International

## ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water continues on the Rise Up Together Tour!

Friends and wonderful supporters of ELCA World Hunger, Rachel Kurtz and Dave Scherer (AGAPE\*), will tour together this fall with Joe Davis, to raise proceeds for ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water. They are competing to see how much money they can raise using our online fundraising tool: [support Team AGAPE\\* here](#) or [support Team Rachel here](#). See the show at one of their concert stops!

Sept 17: Detroit Lakes, MN	Oct 25: Minneapolis, MN
Sept 26: Oshkosh, WI	Nov 6: Chicago, IL
Sept 30: Tomahawk, WI	Nov 7: Massillon, OH
Oct 2: Pennsauken, NJ	Nov 8: Leechburg, PA
Oct 3: Somerville, NJ	Nov 11: Fairmont, MN
Oct 4: Chambersburg, PA	Nov 14: Wenatchee, WA
Oct 4: York, PA	Nov 15: Everett, WA
Oct 7: Hudson, WI	Nov 15: Seattle, WA
Oct 9: Stevens, PA	Nov 22: Greensboro, NC



## WORLD FOOD DAY - OCT 16

The [Churches' Week of Action on Food](#) (Oct. 11-18, 2015) is an opportunity for Christians all over the world to act and speak out together on food justice issues. This week includes the [International Day of Rural Women](#) (Oct. 15), [World Food Day](#) (Oct. 16) and the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) (Oct. 17). This year's focus will be on "soil," a fertile ground for many issues related to food, including land rights, caring for creation and food production. Consider inviting your congregation to have a special service focused on hunger, to designate a special offering for ELCA World Hunger or to share a meal and conversation about food. Look for stories, resources and updates from ELCA World Hunger for ways that your congregation can join with other people of faith in working toward that day when all will be fed.

### Regional event date and registration information reminders:

- **Region 1: No event for 2015**
- **Region 2: Nov. 19-20; Pacifica Synod Office; Santa Ana, Calif.**
  - For more information and to register, contact Margy Schmitt-Ajer ([margaret.schmitt-ajer@ELCA.org](mailto:margaret.schmitt-ajer@ELCA.org)).
- **Region 3: Nov. 12-14; Ramada Plaza Suites and Faith Lutheran Church; Fargo, N.D.**
  - Register by Nov. 2nd online (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/region-3-opening-our-networks-tickets-18105431834>) or by contacting Paul Baglyos ([paul.baglyos@ELCA.org](mailto:paul.baglyos@ELCA.org)).
- **Region 4: Nov. 20-22; Briarwood Retreat Center; Argyle, Texas**
  - Register by Nov. 5th online (<https://ntnl.org/event/2015region4gathering>). You can also contact Herb Palmer ([herb.palmer@ELCA.org](mailto:herb.palmer@ELCA.org)) for more information.
- **Region 5: Oct. 29-31; Shalom Spirituality Center; Dubuque, Iowa**
  - For more information and to register by Oct. 1st, contact Ramie Bakken ([ramie.bakken@ELCA.org](mailto:ramie.bakken@ELCA.org)).
- **Region 6: Feb. 4-6, 2016; TBD**
  - Information coming later in the year so keep checking back.
- **Region 7: Oct. 23-24; Koinonia Camp; Highland Lake, N.Y.**
  - To register, contact your synod office or Peggy Wuertele ([pwuertele@ltspe.edu](mailto:pwuertele@ltspe.edu)).
- **Region 8: No event for 2015**
- **Region 9: April 28-30, 2016; Atlanta, Ga.**
  - Information coming later in the year so keep checking back.



**Looking ahead to 2016: The Campaign for the ELCA's focus will be on ELCA World Hunger**

The ELCA is currently in the midst of our first-ever comprehensive campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. As part of this campaign, ELCA World Hunger is seeking to raise \$115 million by Feb. 1, 2019, to support our comprehensive ministries throughout the world. Next year marks the campaign's year-of-emphasis on ELCA World Hunger and we're kicking it off in Lent. As we come up on 2016 here are just a few things you can be looking forward to more information coming your way.



**Lent 2016:**

During Lent congregations and individuals will be encouraged to raise over-and-above funds for ELCA World Hunger. Those who sign up for the challenge will receive access to an exclusive 40-day devotional written by leaders from across the ELCA World Hunger program.

**Synod assemblies are coming up quickly!**

Who is going from your congregation? Does your Hunger team have plans for a table or workshop? Now is the time to find out more about opportunities that are available to you from your synod's assembly planning team.

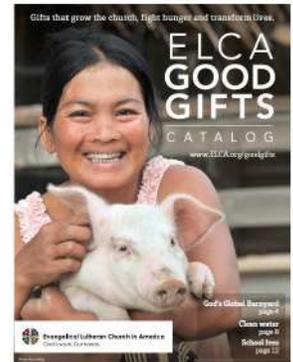
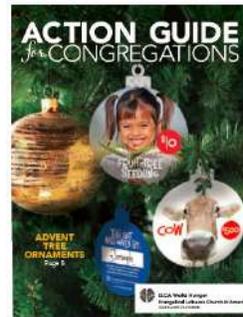
**Churchwide Assembly and the Grace Gathering:**

These might not be until August 2016 but they will come faster than we think! Who are your synod representatives? How can you support them? Have you looked into attending the Grace Gathering? Visit: [www.ELCA.org/churchwideassembly](http://www.ELCA.org/churchwideassembly) for more!

**The Fall-Winter 2015 ELCA World Hunger Recourse Packet is out—be on the look out at your mailbox and in your congregations!**

This Resource Packet includes:

- The NEW ELCA Good Gifts Catalog
- Action Guide for Congregations
- Bulletin inserts with stories
- Along with information on other events and resources



**Monthly network webinar: September link and October meeting date**

This month we featured a quarterly update from the Fundraising Team, took a first look at what's coming up in 2016 and more. Take a listen [here!](#) The recording is broken down by topic below:

**00:00 - 01:01** Introductions

**02:25 - 45:26** Fundraising Team Quarterly Update: "The Other 50%"

Roughly 50% of giving to ELCA World Hunger is realized through synod and congregational gifts. Find out more about how the other 50% of gifts are given and learn more about the expertise of our colleagues in the process.

**45:26 - 47:53** Churches' Week of Action on Food

**47:54 - 50:45** Regional Events Information

**50:46 - 53:47** Looking Forward into 2016

**Next month's webinar: Tuesday, Oct. 20**

8:30 p.m. Eastern/7:30 p.m. Central/6:30 p.m. Mountain/5:30 p.m. Pacific

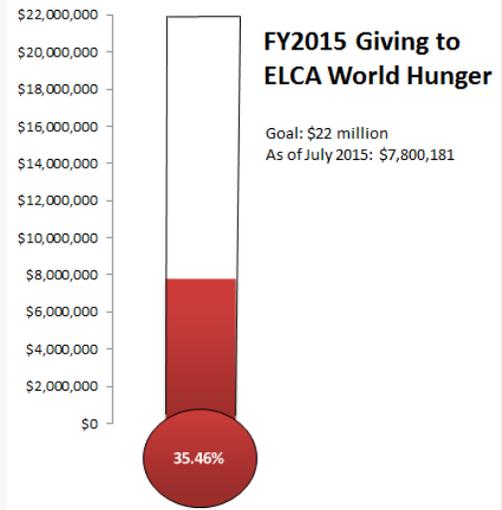
**By the numbers: The Campaign for the ELCA**  
**News from the Malaria Campaign—We Did It!!!**

*Friends, we did it!* The ELCA Malaria Campaign has exceeded its fundraising goal of \$15 million dollars! That means 15 million reasons to say THANK YOU.

Please share this wonderful news with your synods, congregations and Facebook friends—we want everyone to know that ELCA members have stepped up in faith to make a difference and to end deaths from this preventable and treatable disease.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton thanks you for your hard work, too: “We began the Malaria Campaign in the depths of the Great Recession and at a time of considerable turmoil in this church. The goal of raising \$15 million might have sounded improbable at the time, but our people responded generously. We are honored to accompany our global companions in the Lutheran churches in Africa in their work to make malaria history.”

There are a host of resources available to you to help you tell this story: a video, PowerPoint presentation, FAQs, gorgeous posters, bulletin insert and more. Check out our website at [www.ELCA.org/malaria](http://www.ELCA.org/malaria). And remember, the work of ending malaria is not yet finished! Our companions will continue malaria and other health work through ELCA World Hunger in years to come. **THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!**



<i>Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA — Totals as of the close of July 2015</i>	
<b>ELCA World Hunger</b> (toward <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i> goal of \$115 million by end of FY18)	\$27.12 million
<b>ELCA Malaria Campaign</b> (toward overall goal of \$15 million by end of FY15)	\$14.87 million
<b>Overall <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i></b> (toward overall goal of \$198 million by end of FY18)	\$56.62 million

ELCA World Hunger Churchwide Organization Staff

**ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal**

- Daniel Rift, director
- Robin Brown, associate director
- Emily Dubay, associate director
- Sharon Magnuson, associate director
- Ashley Debilzen, development assistant
- Krystal McClinton, development assistant

**Engagement and Education**

- Mikka McCracken, director
- Ryan Cumming, program director
- Jessica Fairfax, coordinator
- Iain Chester, assistant
- Tashina Good, program assistant
- Elyssa Salinas, program assistant

**Contact Us**

*Mail to:*  
 ELCA World Hunger  
 8765 W. Higgins Rd.  
 Chicago, IL 60631

*Phone:* (toll-free) 800-638-3522, ext. 2616  
 or 773-380-2616

*Email:* [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org)

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)