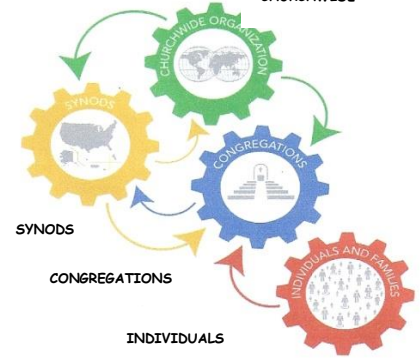


August 2019

Mission Support

CHURCHWIDE

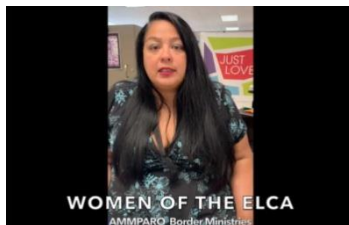
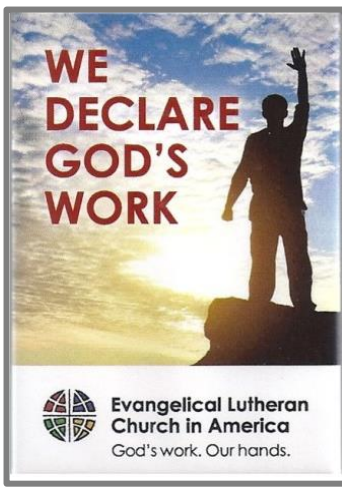


Missional Storyteller

We say **THANK YOU** and **SHARE MISSION SUPPORT STORIES**.

Did you know?

- **Lutheran Disaster Response** is an ELCA designated Mission Support, support by designated \$\$.
- 100% of gifts to **Lutheran Disaster Response** go to the disaster given to.
- Gifts to **Lutheran Disaster Response** that go through WIS to churchwide is under the WIS “Pass through \$\$\$”.
- **World Hunger** is an ELCA designated Mission Support, support by our designated \$\$.
- **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)** is a separate organization from the ELCA. LWR is headquartered in Baltimore, MD. However, ELCA partners with the LWR with \$\$ from World Hunger. You support LWR with your quilts and kits as well as your gifts to World Hunger.
- **Lutheran World Federation (LWF)** is a separate organization from the ELCA. LWF is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The ELCA is a member of the LWF. Our Bishop Eaton is Vice President of the North America region. The ELCA and the LWF share an office in the UN. The ELCA World Hunger \$\$ support LWF.



How do we serve our neighbor?

Jennifer DeLeon, director for justice for Women of the ELCA, explains how you can help migrants at the border.

Video: Women of the ELCA How to Help our Neighbor? 2:08 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC8OPiRLZ5g>

Sharing the Goodness of God



The Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM), a companion of the ELCA, works alongside the indigenous Orang Asli people of West Malaysia. In this south-to-south partnership, Christ's love between the LCM and the Orang Asli is lived out in many ways, including worship life, education, sustainable farming, land-rights awareness and income-generating projects. The ELCA works with the LCM to support these important evangelism ministries, helping to build relationships rooted in the love of Christ so that God's goodness is shared far and wide.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Long after the storms are over and the media has left the church is there to help in healing and recovery. Here is an example. Thanks to partners like Lutheran Services Carolinas our church is still a healing presence for the survivors of Hurricane Matthew. Two and a half years later, your dollars are still at work helping people like Bill Creech get back into their homes.



Lutheran World Relief at Work

In places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, our gifts can be life-saving. The country is in the midst of one of the worst Ebola outbreaks ever. Our gifts provides life-saving items like soap and sanitary supplies, protective gear and medical equipment - items desperately needed to protect children and families at risk of this extremely contagious and highly fatal disease.

Situation Report: Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique

While it seems to have barely made the news in the USA, on April 25th, Cyclone Kenneth struck the northern coast of Mozambique. This storm came on the heels of Cyclone Idai, a storm that devastated the country and killed more than 750 people across southern Africa. Cyclone Idai and Kenneth are reported to be the worst weather-related disasters ever recorded in the southern hemisphere. Mozambique has never experienced consecutive storms of this intensity in such a short period of time and so far, about 2 million people have been affected by the combined devastation of these storms.

SITUATION Lutheran Disaster Response, in partnership with the ACT Alliance, Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique, is responding to the disaster by conducting a six-month relief operation to assist over 3,000 affected households in the vicinities of Chimoyo, Dombe, Namatanda, Buzi and Beira in Mozambique. Some of the activities include:

- Distribution of emergency shelter/house construction material
- Assistance with special needs
- Assistance with access to food
- Distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene kits
- Distribution of water purification sachets
- Rehabilitation and/or disinfection of water sources
- Training of community health workers
- Organize a meeting with local partners and national members to strengthen capacities

Prayers and gifts to Lutheran Disaster response continue to be important for addressing these and other disasters.

ONE MORE THING... Through support from ELCA World Hunger and in partnership with our companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique, and the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa, the ELCA is supporting health projects that aim to reduce mortality due to malaria, HIV and AIDS, and other communicable diseases through clinics and home care, treatment, transportation to medical appointments and more.

DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANT APPLICATION OPEN!

We often think of World Hunger programs as being something that we support in developing countries that are far away, but the church recognizes the needs and works to support local programs to address hunger needs as well. If your congregation works with hunger programs, here is a great opportunity to help support them. Domestic Hunger Grants accompany congregations and their partners throughout the United States and Caribbean as they draw on the strengths of communities to address local issues such as food security, clean water, housing, job readiness, human rights, policy change, leadership development and more. Together, these ministries are part of a comprehensive approach to breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger — for good. Visit www.ELCA.org/domestichungergrants to learn more about the grants and how to apply.

BIG DREAMS FIGHT HUNGER

Inspired by the creativity and bold thinking of anti-hunger ministries in the church, ELCA World Hunger launched the **Big Dream Grants program** to support ministries that are **building and designing innovative and lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and economic inequality**. The one-time Big Dream award payments range from \$10,000 to \$75,000. This year, five ministries across the country received a total of \$250,000.

One awardee, **Farming Hope** in Palo Alto, Calif., works to transform lives and rebuild communities through transitional employment and culinary training to people experiencing homelessness. Its apprentices learn food-preparation and urban-farming techniques, and other skills that can be transferred to a variety of work contexts.

The Big Dream grant will help Farming Hope open a second community café, which will enable it to train more apprentices and host more community events.

"Relationships are a critical piece in transformational structural change," said Jamie Stark, co-founder and executive director of Farming Hope. "This space will be a place for that—for communing together, side by side."

Living Lutheran

"Big Dreams" fight hunger

By Courtney Olsen April 4, 2019

Inspired by the creativity and bold thinking of anti-hunger ministries in the church, ELCA World Hunger launched the Big Dream Grants program to support ministries that are building and designing innovative and lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and economic inequality.

Mikka McCracken, director of planning and engagement for ELCA World Hunger, said the grants were conceived "to invest in ministries that demonstrate excellence, innovation and best practices that align with ELCA World Hunger's priority areas in substantial, sustainable ways."

Prior to the new program's launch, the Domestic Hunger Grants program was the only option for ministries seeking funds from the ELCA for hunger-related projects. The Big Dream Grants program expands this effort, allowing for more significant investment in a few ministries that demonstrate excellence and innovation in their work.

The one-time Big Dream award payments range from \$10,000 to \$75,000. This year, five ministries across the country received a total of \$250,000.

"These ministries represent a diversity of approaches and communities across this church and, more importantly, *are* the church," McCracken said. "God creates abundantly, and everywhere throughout this church, leaders are answering the call to serve with courage by dreaming big dreams."

The ministries awarded grants range widely in their focus and geographic location.

One awardee, Farming Hope in Palo Alto, Calif., works to transform lives and rebuild communities through transitional employment and culinary training to people experiencing homelessness. Its apprentices learn food-preparation and urban-farming techniques, and other skills that can be transferred to a variety of work contexts.

The Big Dream grant will help Farming Hope open a second community café, which will enable it to train more apprentices and host more community events.

"Relationships are a critical piece in transformational structural change," said Jamie Stark, co-founder and executive director of Farming Hope. "This space will be a place for that—for communing together, side by side."

Another grant was awarded to South Sudan Lutheran, a congregation and community organization formed nearly a decade ago by South Sudanese Lutherans in Fargo, N.D.

"This is a community where people who have experienced emptiness, war zones, confusion and misery can know healing, fulfillment, joy, love and faith," said Matuor Alier, director of the church. "The mission of [our church] is to be a life-changing, transformative community where everyone can encounter reminders of God's love and move forward together."

The congregation will use their grant to build their ministry and encourage continued growth in their community.

Founded in 2017 by Audrey and Steve Hollis, **Beacon of Light Ministries** aspires to build community, power and sustainability in the African American communities of north **St. Louis County**. "Working toward food justice and racial justice is a priority for Beacon of Light and exemplifies transformative and integrated work to break down barriers and address root causes of hunger and poverty," Audrey Hollis said.

ELCA World Hunger's investment allowed Beacon of Light to train two new community organizers and secure reliable transportation for local youth to attend the ministry's "Farms R 4 Everyone" camps. Part of a larger campaign to build a statewide "black/rural voter engagement project," the farm camps teach kids about the health and social benefits of local food production and consumption.

Another grant was awarded to Grace in Action Collectives, a network of youth-run collectives and worker-owned business cooperatives in southwest Detroit. The grant will help expand the business of individual cooperatives, bringing economic development to the area and providing skill and employment training for residents, especially young people.

"Helping to build the power of ownership and the ability to have control over one's own future through worker-owned cooperatives is the best way for us and our fellow residents to invest deeply in the community," said Meghan Sobocienski, the network's executive director. "Cooperative businesses have the potential to stabilize communities, utilize local expertise, and build community capital and wealth."

The final ministry funded this year was **IMPACT: Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together**. Located in **Charlottesville, Va.**, IMPACT strives to create social change through direct action.

“[We] work with faith communities to identify and recruit leaders to do justice by building power [and] then exercising that power annually to win public commitments from people in power,” said Josh Scott, IMPACT’s lead organizer. “We listen, we do research with local experts to uncover the problem and take action, and we give everyone an opportunity to invest back into their ministry.”

Initiatives sponsored by the organization range from creating a free dental clinic to expanding public transportation options on Sundays and evenings. The Big Dream Grant will support IMPACT’s work on a new initiative to provide affordable care and housing for seniors.

ELCA World Hunger’s mission is to creatively and courageously work toward a just world where all are fed, and the Big Dream Grants provide another avenue for the church to learn about anti-hunger work.

“We know that, just as God creates diversely, the dreams and visions, projects and programs, congregations and partners are similarly diverse in approach, size and shape,” McCracken said. “[These grants] are designed to help this church see and learn with innovative, sustainable, best-practice-based ministries that are leading the way.”

Thank you for all the ways and time you give to tell the stories of how God works through us and with our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you and God bless!

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