



WORLD HUNGER

World Hunger is a **designated** mission support supported by designated offerings. The portion of our regular Sunday morning offering, that our church councils' decides to send to our synod, is **undesignated** mission support. Nearly 800 million people—that is 1 in 10 people in our world today—are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Hunger Facts:

- Around the world 795 million people can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- 766.6 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That is 10.7% of the world's population.
- More than 42.2 million people in the United States are unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 42.1 million Americans are living in poverty, for a family of four, this means their annual household income is below \$24,250.

This is why I am proud to be an ELCA member; whether it is World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Global Barnyard Good Gifts, or other projects; our ELCA churchwide approaches every project in every community with listening. Churchwide believes that our congregations, companion churches, and partners know their communities best. That's why they identify the needs and priorities in their own communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact.

Abel's Story: Despondent, malnourished, and bewildered, Abel arrived in Cairo, Egypt, in need of emotional and social support. At 13, the Ethiopian refugee had experienced extreme trauma. He was imprisoned with his family and tortured; he witnessed the execution of his father, and now he was separated from his mother and brother. "Everything was dark for me --I was thinking to end my life. It was too painful to keep thinking of what happened in my life and now being all alone," Abel says of his first months in Cairo. After meeting with a caseworker from the St. Andrews Refugee Service, things began to improve. Abel received the counseling and medical services he needed. He also received nourishing meals provided through an ELCA World Hunger grant. With the support of his caseworker, Abel got involved in a local program for unaccompanied youth. "I was very scared because I had not been in school in many years," Abel remembers. "I can say the first time I felt free was after I started education here." Being in a safe and supportive environment where he could learn, form positive connections with other youth and adults from the community, and build life skills enabled Abel to pursue other opportunities, eventually leading him to resettlement in the U.S. Today, Abel is working part-time and studying to receive his high school competency diploma in the U.S. He credits the support network he had in Cairo with helping him overcome challenges and build a new life.