ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving – Devotional Calendar

The practices of Lent – repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – will guide our own journey through the wilderness to the cross with Christ and back into the world to share the good news with our neighbors. Each week follow the next 7 days of the Lenten devotional calendar, which gives ideas for daily engagement with the Lenten disciplines.

**Week of March 3rd**

*March 6 (Self-Examination and Repentance)*
Holy and righteous God, teach us, your church, to be honest about our sinfulness. Turn our hearts back to you to receive the fullness of your forgiveness and redemption. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

*March 7 (Works of Love)*
We show God’s love by walking alongside our neighbors as they creatively and courageously address hunger and poverty in their communities. As we journey through these 40 days and hear some of their stories, read more by downloading a copy at ELCA.org/40days.

*March 8 (Sacrificial Giving)*
Today would be a good day to set a goal for your giving to ELCA World Hunger as part of the 40 Days of Giving. That goal might be a specific dollar amount or one of the ideas shown through this calendar. Write it down and refer back to it throughout the next six weeks.

*March 9 (Prayer and Fasting)*
Use the prayer and fasting calendar days to both give something up and take something on, with Colossians 3:12-14 as your guide. On this day of power and fasting, I will: Clothe myself in compassion and let go of discord. *Colossians 3:12*

**Week of March 10th**

*March 10

*March 11 (Self-Examination and Repentance)*
Open wide your hand to satisfy the needs of every living thing. Send your Spirit to places experiencing drought or floods. Fill every habit with life. Hear us O God. Your mercy is great.

*March 12 (Works of Love)*
Through ELCA World Hunger, our church supports work in areas related to health care, income generation, food security, clean water and education – addressing the root causes of hunger. Learn more about our approach at ELCA.org/Hunger.

*March 13 (Sacrificial Giving)*
Consider using a 40 Days of Giving coin jar to collect your gifts this season. You may download special wrappers for your coin jar at ELCA.org/40Days.
March 14 (Prayer and Fasting)
On this day of prayer and fasting, I will: Clothe myself in kindness and let go of hatred. Colossians 3:12

March 15 (Works of Love)
In the village of Chole, Malawi, Shadrock has been cultivating trees for two years, and the oldest are nearly ready to sell and transplant. His nursery was made possible by a small business loan, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Read more about his story in A legacy of stewardship.

March 16 (Sacrificial Giving)
A $10 donation to ECA World Hunger can provide a fruit-tree seedling for a family farm like Shadrock’s. Seedlings are specially selected for each location and climate and include varieties known to thrive in the driest of conditions, even drought.

Week of March 17th

March 17

March 18 (Self-Examination and Repentance)
Raise up reconcilers who point us to the sources of injustice and teach us how to build relationships. Establish your lasting peace among the nations. Hear us O God. Your mercy is great.

March 19 (Works of Love)
In Guerrero, Mexico, poverty and lack of opportunity make healthy food hard to come by. But, with your support, families are receiving training and materials to create chicken coops, gardens and other assets to increase stability. Read more in Hatching a reliable protein source.

March 20 (Sacrificial Giving)
A $200 gift is enough to provide our neighbors, like those in Guerrero, with community gardens. This includes shared plots of land and good soil, drought-resistant seeds, tools and training, resulting in plenty of tomatoes, potatoes, beans, cassava and other vegetables to go around.

March 21 (Prayer and Fasting)
On this day of prayer and fasting, I will: Clothe myself in humility and let go of pride. Colossians 3:12

March 22 (Works of Love)
In Cambodia, a government program provides families with land for homes and agriculture. With your gifts, these families receive supplies and training to ensure their land is usable to grow food and generate income. Read more in Life is better now.

March 23 (Sacrificial Giving)
A gift of $25 can provide helpful tools – like a rake, hoe and shovel – along with seeds and comprehensive agricultural training to help a farmer get ahead. With valuable tips and the right equipment, farmers can count on increased harvests and health families.
Week of March 24th

March 24

March 25 (Self-Examination and Repentance)
Soothe the souls of people who feel like they are beyond your mercy. Wash away the barriers that keep us far from you, and restore joy in our lives. Hear us O God. Your mercy is great.

March 26 (Works of Love)
Burure, Zimbabwe, is a remote area plagued by outbreaks of malaria. However, your fits to ELCA World Hunger support Burure’s schools, and the Burure Gokwe Clinic, providing education and health care to 10,000 people. Read more in With women in power, malaria doesn't stand a chance.

March 27 (Sacrificial Giving)
Medical supplies and medicines are in high demand, especially when one clinic serves a population as large Burure’s. A gift of $75 can support one of these medical clinics for a week, providing lifesaving supplies like antibiotics diagnostic test and vitamins.

March 28 (Prayer and Fasting)
On this day of prayer and fasting, I will: Clothe myself in meekness and let go of arrogance. Colossians 3:12

March 29 (Works of Love)
Working with congregations, social ministry organizations and other partners, ELCA World Hunger supports ministries addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty across the U.S. and Caribbean. Learn more about our domestic approach at ELCA.org/DomesticHungerGrants.

March 30 (Sacrificial Giving)
Food pantries, soup kitchens, community meals and shelters are some of the ways ELCA congregations build relationships and address needs in their communities. A gift of $20 can help a congregation serve warm meals and fellowship to 10 of their neighbors.

Week of March 31st

March 31

April 1 (Self-Examination and Repentance)
Fill our fasting bodies with your spirit of justice. Lead us into the challenging work of feeding and freeing all people. Fulfill your purpose in us. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

April 2 (Works of Love)
St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church’s Lunchtime Ministry offers a warm meal, hospitality and community to neighbors in Hoboken, N.J. While different things bring people there, the only requirement is respect for the space and people. Read more in One lifeline that never goes away.

April 3 (Sacrificial Giving)
More than 30 million children in the U.S. depend on free or reduced-price lunches each weekday. But on weekends, many students go hungry. A gift of $10 is enough to ensure children and their families have a couple of days of healthy eats, and one less thing to worry about.
April 4 (Prayer and Fasting)
On this day of prayer and fasting, I will: Clothe myself in patience and let go of indifference. Colossians 3:12

April 5 (Works of Love)
For families in Akron, Ohio, DLM (Dare to Love More) Food and Resources is a place to find nourishing food, warm clothes and an equally warm welcome. “Our clients feel seen, heard and loved,” said Rachel Breece, special programs coordinator. Read more in Dare to Love More.

April 6 (Sacrificial Giving)
Millions of Americans struggle to get enough to eat. Whether looking for a refuge from the streets or a little extra help to get by, a warm meal and a seat at the table can go a long way. A gift of $100 to ELCA World Hunger can help feed 50 people at a soup kitchen.

Week of April 7th

April 7
Read today’s Gospel reading together John 12: 1-8

April 8 (Self-Examination and Repentance)
Reveal the treasures of heaven through the witness of all your saints. Give us the will to journey faithfully and to bear Christ’s salvation to all who yearn for it. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

April 9 (Works of Love)
In addition to funding relief and development projects that assist our neighbors in need, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger allow the church to advocate alongside our neighbors to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty. Learn more about our approach at ELCA.org/Advocacy.

April 10 (Sacrificial Giving)
According to World Food Bank estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than $1.90 per day. That’s 10.7 percent of the world’s population. With a gift of $2 a day, you can make a significant impact on hunger and poverty in our world.

April 11 (Prayer and Fasting)
On this day of prayer and fasting, I will: Clothe myself in forgiveness and let go of blame. Colossians 3:13

April 12 (Works of Love)
In 2018, your gifts helped our church respond to hunger and poverty through 500 projects in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States. Thank you. Your continued support through 40 Days of Giving will help us do even more in 2019 – and beyond.

April 13 (Sacrificial Giving)
There many ways gifts to ELCA World Hunger are at work, including agriculture, water and healthcare programs. Every gift goes a long way toward a just world where all are fed.
Week of April 14th

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 15
Reveal your will as you receive our prayers and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

April 16
On this day of prayer and fasting, I will: Clothe myself in love and let go of hate. Colossians 3:14

April 17
Gather all you’ve collected throughout your Lenten journey and add up your total gift to ELCA World Hunger. Bring your gifts to worship or make your donations online at ELCA.org/40Days. Thank you for working creatively and courageously toward a just world where all are fed!

April 18 – Maundy Thursday
Your gifts matter – in Malawi, Mexico, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, New Jersey, Ohio and around the world. Continue to follow this story at ELCA.org/Hunger. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you (John 13:34).

April 19 – Good Friday
Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2)

April 20
“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. … The Lord had done great things for us, and we rejoiced” (Psalm 126:1-3)

April 21 – Easter
Alleluia Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the feast Alleluia. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)