

Resolution in Support of ELCA Hunger Ministry

WHEREAS, Jesus told his followers: “For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” [Matthew: 25:35], and he modeled the ministry of feeding people food for physical bodies along with spiritual food for their minds and hearts, and

WHEREAS, data from the United Nations and the World Bank show that more than 821 million people, or almost 11% of the people in our world, are hungry and 17.5 % of all the children in the world live in poverty, and

WHEREAS, even though the world had seen a dramatic drop in the percentage of experiencing hunger and food insecurity since 2014, the number of people experiencing hunger and food insecurity in the world has been on the rise since 2018, and

WHEREAS, latest statistics indicate that the hungry and those living in poverty are more vulnerable to natural disasters, human conflicts, homelessness, disease, shortened life spans, and a host of other disadvantages, and

WHEREAS, ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and throughout the world by addressing root causes through a comprehensive program of relief, education, advocacy, sustainable development, and community organization and networking so that people are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, many congregations in the NW Synod of Wisconsin already support local and regional hunger ministries, including meals and food pantries, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the synod gathered in assembly encourage all congregations in the NW Synod of Wisconsin to take time on a regular basis throughout the year to call awareness to the problem of hunger and collect a special offering to support local feeding ministries, and be it further

RESOLVED that each congregation set aside at least one Sunday each year to reflect on caring for those who are hungry, and to bring an awareness of the work and ministry of ELCA World Hunger domestically and internationally, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Northwest Synod in assembly establish a total giving goal of \$1,000,000¹ for ELCA World Hunger from this synod starting from the month of this Assembly to the month of the Synod Assembly in 2024, and for the Synod Council to monitor giving and report regularly to the synod’s congregations on progress towards the goal².

Submitted by the NW Synod Hunger Leaders, the NW Synod Justice Team, and the NW Synod Council

¹ The NW Synod currently contributes approximately \$300,000 each year to ELCA World Hunger.

² Except for bequests from wills or trusts providing funds directly to ELCA World Hunger, giving from all sources in the synod based on Zip codes and mailing addresses – from individuals, congregations, and any special offerings (including from Synod Assembly) – would be counted towards this goal in ELCA record-keeping.