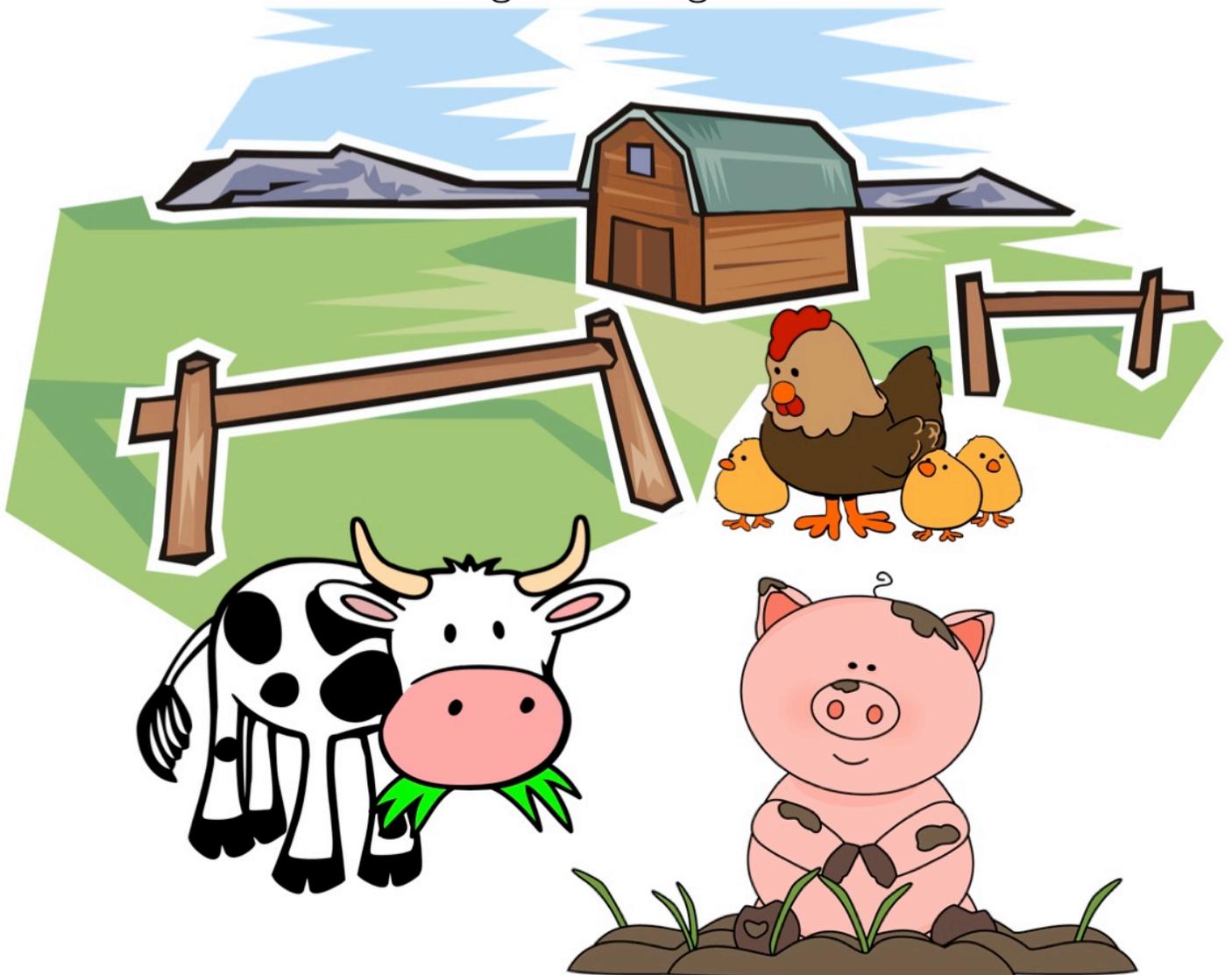


# What's The Buzz?

How **EWE** & your **NEIGH**ors can **WRANGLE** hunger during Lent!



# What's the Buzz?

+ How **EWE** and your **NEIGH**ors can **WRANGLE** hunger during Lent! +

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## 2019 Hunger Challenge

From March 6 (Ash Wednesday) to April 21 (Easter) the congregations and communities of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin are invited to participate in a global hunger challenge, "What's the Buzz?" as we work together to alleviate food insecurity throughout the world. During the season of Lent we will help raise awareness of the impacts of hunger. Mindful of these needs, we are challenged to find faithful, creative ways to gather funds which will be used to purchase a variety of animals through the ELCA God's Global Barnyard. These animals not only provide food for families, but they can be a source of regular income, sustainability and self-reliance for households.

## Purpose

1 in 7 people throughout the world suffer from hunger, and do not have access to clean, safe drinking water. In Africa, this number increases to 1 in 4. Globally, 45% of deaths in children are caused by poor nutrition. Statistics also show that the world also discards a 1/3 of all food that's produced each year - ([foodaidfoundation.org](http://foodaidfoundation.org)).

As followers of Christ, we have been called to show compassion to our neighbors and to provide shelter, clothing, and food whenever possible. As we ponder the arrest, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we remember the radical and powerful ways he changed people's stories - from illness to healing; from despair to joy; from scarcity to abundance. The hope we have in Christ is a message we are called to share!

## Details

Each of the seven conferences in the synod will be assigned a different ELCA God's Global Barnyard animal. (*You are encouraged to find creative ways to use your specific animal during your fundraising efforts!!*). During the 40 days of Lent, we will have a friendly competition to see which of the seven conferences will have the most congregations who participate in this challenge. During our annual synod assembly, we will announce the winning conference as well as the total synod amount raised for World Hunger.

## Conference Assignments

Conference	Assigned Animal
Lake Superior	Goats
Apple River	Pigs
Heart of the North	Honeybees
St. Croix	Cows
Chippewa Valley	Oxen & Plow
Chequamegon	Fish Farm
Dairyland	Chicks

## Resources

Included in this packet you will find:

- Worship and Bible study materials
- ELCA God's Global Barnyard resources (bulletin inserts, coloring pages, etc.)
- ELCA Global Hunger resources (bulletin inserts, video clips, etc.)
- Creative fundraising ideas

# What's the Buzz?

## Weekly Themes & Supporting Texts

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### **Week 1 – Hens & Chicks**                      **Matthew 23:37-39**

Jesus acts as a mother hen, gathering chicks under wings, providing care. The chicks choose to leave Jesus' care. If you have ever loved someone you could not protect, then you understand the depth of Jesus' lament. All you can do is open your arms. You cannot make anyone walk into them. Meanwhile, this is the most vulnerable posture in the world – wings spread, breast exposed – but if you mean what you say, then this is how you stand. Jesus' love, sacrifice and hope extends despite circumstances (if we are hungry) or despite our actions (if we do not help).

### **Week 2 – Fish**                                      **Matthew 14:16-18**

Loaves and fish to feed a crowd. What does it mean to be generous? What can God do with our abundance? How do we feed the world? What gets in the way of our generosity?

### **Week 3 – Pigs**                                      **Psalm 51 & Luke 15:11-19**

The story of the Prodigal Son (ending when the son watches the pigs eat and realized how hungry he is...). He repents of his sins and goes to his Father to ask for forgiveness. We also read Psalm 51, which is a prayer for forgiveness. Hunger/Homelessness is tied to the hungry prodigal son.

### **Week 4 – Honeybees**                              **Isaiah 7:13-15, 21-22**

With the coming of Christ everyone will eat curds and honey! How do we reconcile these words of promise and hope with the knowledge that so many are hungry? What are we as Christians called to do?

### **Week 5 – Goats**                                      **Matthew 25:31-46**

What does it mean to be a sheep or goat? Jesus tell us that those who feed the hungry feed him.

### **Week 6 – Cows**                                      **Matthew 22:1-14**

At the wedding banquet the calves are slaughtered and ready to serve, but no one comes. What does it mean to show up? What does it mean to be present to Christ? What does it mean to be Christ others who are suffering?

# What's the Buzz?

## Worship Order

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### Welcome to Worship

### Song

### Prayer

Ever-present God, you invite us into a season of reflection and contemplation, stirring us to deepen our relationships with one another, with our neighbors and with you. As we turn toward the cross, remind us of our need for Christ, and the fulfillment of love that only God can provide.

**Amen.**

### Opening (*With Psalm 51*)

The earth God created is capable of sustaining all life with the magnitude of food and water that it provides; and yet, there are millions of people that suffer from hunger and who thirst for clean water each day, in our neighborhoods and across the globe.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me;**

We are God's beloved children; our neighbors, near and far, are God's beloved children; when we are distracted, demanding, defensive, and doubtful, we forget how deeply we are loved by God, and neglect your call to share that love with others.

**Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.**

God our creator, you designed all things with love.

**Restore.**

God the Son, you make all things new in Christ.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation.**

God the Spirit, you reveal hope and encourage peace.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

God of love, you bring people together in worship, in prayer, and in conversation as we learn more about you and one another. Be with us during this season of Lent, help to strengthen us in mind, body and spirit, so that we can serve our neighbors and be signs of your grace in the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### Reading

### Message

### Song of the Day

## **Apostles' Creed**

### **Prayers**

Let us pray.

God of hope;

For holy places, music, words, meals and other moments of worship around the globe.

God, in your love,

**Hear our prayers of thankfulness.**

You have provided all that the world needs; help us to be mindful of our consumption and generous with all that we have.

God, in your love,

**Hear our prayers for guidance.**

In a world that experiences tremendous conflict, we pray for peace and reconciliation.

God, in your love,

**Hear our prayers for compassion.**

For all the times when we find our selves disconnected from you and one another;

God in your love,

**Hear our prayers for grace.**

For those who suffer from grief, rejection, loneliness, and sadness;

God in your love,

**Hear our prayers for comfort.**

For those who are experiencing illness, addiction, and pain. We pray especially today for [.....].

God in your love,

**Hear our prayers for healing.**

For signs of new life, new relationships, and renewed spirits;

God, in your love,

**Hear our prayers of praise and gratitude.**

For these and all other things you know that we need, we pray in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

### **Offering**

### **Communion**

### **Blessing**

### **Sending Song**

# What's the Buzz?

Bible Study Materials

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## Week 1 – Hens & Chicks

## Matthew 23:37-39

### Text

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

### Discussion Questions

1. What are some other images, stories, or illustrations that are meaningful to you which describe the kind of care and love shown by Jesus?
2. Who needs this kind of love? Why?
3. What are the ways we show this love to our family? Friends? Perfect strangers?
4. Describe a situation in which it might be difficult to love like this?
5. How does it feel when we offer care and love, and are rejected or ignored?

### Prayer

God our caring mother, you love us, even when we disregard that love, and you remain in our lives with open arms, ready to welcome us back. We are grateful for your never-failing, always-present, and unconditional love. Amen.

# What's the Buzz?

Bible Study Materials

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## Week 2 – Fish

## Matthew 14:16-18

### Text

Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.'

### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be generous?
2. What can God do with our abundance?
3. How do we feed the world?
4. What gets in the way of our generosity?

### Prayer

God our provider, you created a world of abundance, yet we often allow the fear of scarcity to determine our decisions. Help us to trust your promises and generously share our abundance with others so that no one is missing from the table. Amen.

# What's the Buzz?

Bible Study Materials

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## Week 3 – Pigs

## Psalm 51 & Luke 15:11-19

### Text

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'"

### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be forgiven?
2. What are some of the stereotypes associated with homelessness?
3. What might be some of the causes of hunger in your community and throughout the world?
4. What makes it difficult to forgive someone?
5. What does God say about forgiveness?

### Prayer

God of grace, sometimes we make choices that we believe are acceptable, but actually hurt ourselves or others. Help us to recognize those moments and seek ways of reconciling differences for the physical and spiritual well-being of your children. Amen.

# What's the Buzz?

Bible Study Materials

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## Week 4 – Honeybees

## Isaiah 7:13-15, 21-22

### Text

Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. On that day one will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, and will eat curds because of the abundance of milk that they give; for everyone that is left in the land shall eat curds and honey.

### Discussion Questions

1. How do we reconcile these words of promise and hope with the knowledge that so many are hungry?
2. What are we as Christians called to do?

### Prayer

God of blessing, every good thing comes from you - big or small, busy or quiet – as we give thanks for these gifts, help us to recognize ways we might be called to learn and help one another so that everyone can celebrate in God's abundant gifts together! Amen.

# What's the Buzz?

## Bible Study Materials

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### Week 5 – Goats

### Matthew 25:31-46

#### Text

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 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, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'"

#### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be a sheep or goat?
2. Why do you think Jesus talks specifically about basic human needs?
3. How might this text apply to your household? community? The country? The world?

#### Prayer

God of compassion, the scarcity of our neighbors' basic needs is often invisible to us. Help us remember your call to care for one another, and encourage us to ask questions and seek solutions so that no one has to go without food, water, or shelter. Amen.

# What's the Buzz?

Bible Study Materials

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## Week 6 – Cows

## Matthew 22:1-14

### Text

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to show up?
2. What does it mean to be present to Christ?
3. What does it mean to be Christ others who are suffering?

### Prayer

Ever-present Spirit, you call us into many places and situations – as we show up, we trust that you will use us to do good things with our words and our actions. Amen.

# What's the Buzz?

## Resources

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### ELCA God's Global Barnyard

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#GlobalFarmChallenge>

(Video (Seeds of Change in Malawi), bulletin inserts, information, free piggy/barn banks to order, etc.)

### ELCA Stories and Videos from Around the World

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#Stories>

### ELCA Global Hunger Toolkits

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#Toolkits>

### ELCA Hunger and Education Resources

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#HungerEd>

### Additional Lenten Materials and Resources

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger#Seasonal>

### Fundraising Ideas

- Host a meal (free will donation or set amount) which features a variety of foods that would be provided by/possible with your conference's specific animal. Invite the community! Include table tents with information about the sustainable benefits for households with these animals/fish/bees.
- Decorate a large container to look like your conference's animal – find a central location to place it for free will donations or have children pass it at a special time during worship.
- Decorate brown paper bags to look like your conference's animal – fill them with cookies, snack mix, homemade jams or other treats and a thank you note; seal them up – people can offer a donation for a surprise grab bag of treats! (be sure to note treats with nuts and gluten free options if appropriate)
- Create a "barn" somewhere in your building; for each animal that has been "purchased" with fundraising, add one to your barn and celebrate during worship!
- Create a Global Barnyard fundraising goal for your congregation; challenge the pastor to dress up as your conference's animal during worship the week after Easter if you reach that goal!
- Have an "adults vs youth, "female vs male," or "congregation vs congregation" challenge to see who can raise the most money during Lent.
- Offer your time to do some spring cleaning for neighbors for a free will donation.
- Offer your time to a local farmer, beekeeper, or fisherman for a free will donation.
- Host a "barn dance" in your church's fellowship hall! (free will donation or small fee to attend).