



The following are suggestions to nurture prayer in a congregation. Check the ELCA Prayer Web page [www.elca.org/dcs](http://www.elca.org/dcs) or [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger) for more suggestions.

---

- Engage *To Serve as Jesus Served: A Guide to Social Ministry for Congregations* as a resource for small group study or an adult forum. Discover anew the invitation to emulate Jesus' servant example by performing acts of mercy, justice and love in the community and the world.
- Choose a special service opportunity or servant event for your congregation. Consider such options as building or rehabilitating homes with Habitat for Humanity, prison ministry, working with issues of domestic violence, servant trips to rehabilitate areas recovering from natural disasters, and projects to support the disenfranchised, poor and elderly population.
- Find out about the ministry needs in the congregations of your synod's global Companion Synod. Use that information to identify a project your congregation could rally around, such as building a church, building a school or classrooms, providing medical supplies for a hospital, providing curriculum and Bibles for Christian education, etc. See how you can be involved in that ministry in ways beyond fundraising.
- Tie a hands-on service project to a Lenten discipleship theme. Set up and encourage participation in collecting clothing or food for the less fortunate, constructing a church or education facility with ELCA Mission Builders, or assisting with some community need or project, etc.
- Schedule an opportunity for youth and adults to experience a servant event trip. Review the dozens of suggestions in *Journeys* for ideas on youth and young adults servant events, Hunger/Justice Programs, and volunteer service opportunities.
- Connect local servant events with global ministry projects through service, prayer, study and giving. After building a Habitat house or helping out at a local soup kitchen, pray for and learn about homeless and hungry people throughout the world.
- Through advocacy in the community and in national and international circles, find ways to connect personal action with change in systems that cause poverty. Use resources from the ELCA ([www.elca.org/dcs](http://www.elca.org/dcs)) and from Bread for the World.
- Utilize the resource *Even the Stones Will Cry Out for Justice: An Adult Forum on Institutionalized Racism* for adult study and reflection.
- Contact your local Lutheran Social Services (LSS) office to learn about ways your congregation can be involved in ministries of justice, mercy and compassion with those who have special needs for support and services.