

Lectionary Connection | SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Luke 4:14–21 *The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth*

Jesus' sermon in Nazareth marks the beginning of his public ministry. In many ways, the sermon spells out what his ministry will be about—bringing good news to those who are poor and setting free the oppressed. While we may want to offer a spiritual interpretation of this, as Matthew does in his Gospel, Luke has concrete realities in mind (see Luke 6:20, 7:21–23, 14:12–14).

It is also noteworthy that Jesus' first word is "today." For Luke, this word does not refer to some day in the distant past, but to today, *this* day. God is still acting on behalf of those who are poor and vulnerable today. How will we participate in God's work with our hands?

Jump-start the New Year

EASY WAYS TO LIFT UP HUNGER AND DISASTER GIVING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- **Tell the story.** Run a story about ELCA World Hunger or ELCA Disaster Response in your bulletin each week or each month. Reproducible stories are available at www.elca.org/hunger/stories.
- **Make connections.** Keep an eye out for issues related to hunger and justice in your community and around the world. Connect the current events to the hunger and disaster work of this church. Flip through the pages of this resource for more ideas and inspiration.
- **Be prepared.** Order a supply of ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response offering envelopes to keep in the pews and in the narthex throughout the year. You can even stuff these envelopes inside newsletters, worship bulletins, and offering envelope boxes. Visit www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger for a variety of offering supplies.
- **Set a goal.** Ask your congregation to set an annual fund-raising goal for ELCA World Hunger and regularly announce your progress.
- **Provide options.** Automatic giving is an easy way for members to make a lasting commitment to generous stewardship. Give members an option to sign up for monthly giving to ELCA World Hunger in addition to other automatic withdrawal programs that your congregation may offer. Download the forms at www.elca.org/hunger/howtogive.

Take a Seat at the Table

There is a new way for hunger advocates to meet each other, share ideas, make plans, give opinions, and stay in touch. It's called The Table, and all are welcome.

The Table is a social networking site specific to ELCA World Hunger. Join discussion groups, share photos, and post links to share your ideas with others or gain inspiration.



Visit www.elcaworldhunger.ning.com to join the community.

Thank you, Revs!

In August, three Lutheran pastors from the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod completed the "Tour de Revs," a 13,000 mile journey to raise funds and awareness for ELCA World Hunger. Countless people were inspired by the dedication and commitment of the Revs as they traveled across all 65 synods of the ELCA within 100 days. Though the ride has ended, the commitment to end hunger is far from over. Visit www.elca.org/hunger to learn how you and your congregation can stay involved.