



# Climate Change and Hunger Toolkit

Closing and ACTION

Activity Level: All

Hunger and Climate Change will not end without your **action**. All of our actions, even small ones, add up to make a big difference. Below is a list of takeaways—actions—related to today’s gathering that you can incorporate into your life right away to contribute to the end hunger and stop the warming of the globe. Take some time to talk as a group about the items listed here. What might you do together? What might you do individually? Who else might you invite to join you? This is certainly not a comprehensive list and your group may create their own list—GREAT!

Please share with us what you and your group are doing in your community related to hunger and climate change. We would love to hear about your good work! Tell us about it at [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).

## GIVING

- **One is a BIG number**  
Give generously to ELCA World Hunger—contribute online or through your congregation. Challenge your family (and congregation) to contribute one percent of your income to ending hunger locally and globally. Learn more at [www.elca.org/giving](http://www.elca.org/giving).
- **Just What I Wanted...Thank You!**  
Make plans to organize an Alternative Gift Fair in your congregation, neighborhood, campus or workplace. Make it easy to give gift donations from ELCA Good Gifts and God’s Global Barnyard ([www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)). Sell items from Lutheran World Relief (LWR) such as fair trade coffee, chocolate, and handcrafts projects ([www.lwr.org/fairtrade](http://www.lwr.org/fairtrade)). Invite others in your community to contribute handmade items to the sale and donate the proceeds to ELCA World Hunger.
- **Nice Bag!**  
Reusable bags eliminate a tremendous amount of waste! Consider selling reusable bags in your congregation and community. You can even personalize the bags with printing and art work to make them extra special. Couple the bag sales with a month of environmental and hunger education through worship, small groups, or Sunday school.

**CAUTION**—do your homework and make sure that the bags you purchase are sweat-shop free (or even make them yourself!). Connect the bag sales to the ongoing anti-hunger work of your community by donating sale proceeds to ELCA World Hunger.

- **Keep the Receipt**  
Track your spending for one week. Where did you spend the most? The least? What surprised you? Make a gift to ELCA World Hunger as a sign of gratitude for all that God has entrusted to you.

## ADVOCATING

- **Get Connected and Act**
  - Join the ELCA e-Advocacy network ([http://ga6.org/elca\\_advocacy/join.tcl](http://ga6.org/elca_advocacy/join.tcl)) and receive action alerts on timely legislative issues have an impact on hunger in the world.
  - Write a letter to your elected officials about a topic you received from an e-Advocacy alert. Find out who they are by visiting: [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy). Click on the “Get Involved Link” then click on “Tools.”
  - Write an op-ed (opposite editorial) in your local paper related to a current local concern for those most in need.



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- Join the ELCA Shareholders Network and stay up to date on current advocacy issues related to corporations that have environmental implications. Sign up at [www.elca.org/corporate](http://www.elca.org/corporate).
- **Organize Your Toolkit**  
Check out the ELCA Creation Care Toolkit (<http://archive.elca.org/advocacy/environment/education.asp>). See what you can incorporate into the life of your congregation or campus community.
- **Eco-Justice Campaign**  
Check out the Eco-Justice campaign of the National Council of Churches. Eco-justice includes all ministries designed to heal and defend creation, working to assure justice for all of creation and the human beings who live in it. Learn how you and your congregation can be involved in this important work at [www.nccecojustice.org](http://www.nccecojustice.org).

## EDUCATING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- **Say What?**  
Gather your family or a small group from your congregation, neighborhood, campus or workplace to watch and discuss “The Story of Stuff.” This 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled online video examines the production and consumption patterns of our stuff from extraction through sale, use, and disposal. All the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of it hidden from view. Watch and learn at [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com).
- **Measure your Footprint**  
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a Personal Emissions Calculator to help estimate and reduce personal greenhouse gas emissions. Use the calculator with a small group from your congregation, campus, workplace, or neighborhood and challenge each other to make lifestyle adjustments and reduce your carbon footprint. See [www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html).
- **Green Church**  
Check out the Web of Creation website for terrific ideas and guides to help your congregation become a “Green

Church” through worship, education, advocacy, and in your buildings and on the grounds. Share what “green actions” your congregation is taking with members, the local community, and ELCA World Hunger! Learn more at [www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org).

- **Connect with Others Who Care**
  - Join the ELCA World Hunger Facebook Cause.
  - Connect with your synod’s hunger team and learn what others in your area are doing... and join them. To learn more contact your synod office or send an email to ELCA World Hunger at [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).
  - Subscribe to and read the ELCA World Hunger blog “Hunger Rumbblings” at <http://blogs.elca.org/hungerrumbblings>.

## LEADING THE SIMPLE LIFE

- **Alternatives for Simple Living**  
Visit [www.simpleliving.org](http://www.simpleliving.org) and explore lifestyle resources from Alternatives for Simple Living, including their annual booklet “Whose birthday is it, anyway?” Check out the new DVD, “Simply Enough,” which is a great tool to facilitate conversations about our own lifestyle choices.
- **Calling All Thespians and Drama Queens**  
“THE RACE: A SIMPLICITY MUSICAL” is a creative and fun way to engage your congregation in exploring lifestyle and stewardship practices. The musical is easily staged and performed, requiring as few as eight performers and minimal technical crew. “The Race: A Simplicity Musical” is a terrific complement to your congregation’s participation in ELCA World Hunger. Learn more at <http://archive.elca.org/hunger/musical>.
- **Fresh from the Farm**  
Purchase locally grown, organic (whenever possible) fruits and vegetables. These foods not only support local farmers and the local economy, they actually help the environment by limiting the gas used in shipping foods from far away farms and processing plants to your neighborhood. If you have space and a green thumb, try growing some of your own herbs and vegetables. As an added bonus, you’ll eat better and may even improve your health.



Close this session with a song and prayer. Here are a few suggestions...

## PRAYERS

1. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *ELW, additional prayers, Creation, Creation's praise, page 81*
2. God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity and grant us wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *ELW, additional prayers, Stewardship, The proper use of wealth, page 80*
3. God of all Creation, we come to you in a moment of personal and corporate confession. We participate in a system which is exploitative and violent and which separates humanity from the rest of Creation. By acts of omission and commission we cause harm to others. At times we are guilty of complicity, passivity and denial, at other times of abuses of power. We hear the cries of both our fellow humans, who are already living in the midst of extreme poverty and hunger, and the cries of all creation. We know we bear responsibility for

the pain of both, and we know the impact one has on the other. We confess our complicity in the plight of all of your Creation, and beg your forgiveness and mercy, that we may do better to follow in the way of You who creates. Amen. *National Council of Churches 2008 Earth Day Sunday resource "The Poverty of Global Climate Change"*

4. Praise God, from who all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. *Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt., ELW 885*

## SONG SUGGESTIONS FROM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP (ELW)

- ELW 556  
Morning Has Broken
- ELW 680  
We Plow the Fields and Scatter
- ELW 715  
Christ, Be Our Light
- ELW 885  
Doxology