

**Synod Hunger Leaders Survey**  
Research and Evaluation  
*Rebecca Sims*  
*March 2006*

## **Overview**

In collaboration with the World Hunger Program in Church in Society, Research and Evaluation developed a survey of synod hunger leaders. Due to the wide variety of practices in synods, the churchwide Hunger Program was seeking feedback from the different synods on the nature of their hunger work. Surveys were sent to representatives from all 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), including the bishops, synod staff, and a synod hunger leader if one was known. Questionnaires were also sent to recent hunger gathering participants. There were a total of 294 surveys sent, and 116 were completed and returned. This resulted in a 39 percent response rate. Many individuals on the mailing list indicated they were no longer synod hunger leaders or they did not feel qualified to answer the questions. However, 54 of the 65 synods were represented by at least one response, which is 83 percent of the synods.

## **Characteristics of the Respondents**

Over half of the respondents are male (55%), and the majority are in the 40 to 60 year old age range (51%). (See Appendix A for a complete list of frequencies.) Many respondents are 61 or older (46%), and a few are 26 to 39 (3%). Some of the synods had more respondents than others, with Northeastern Minnesota having the most responses at eight. Five responses each were received for Southeastern Minnesota and Northern Illinois, and four responses each were received for Northwest Washington, Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Iowa and Northwestern Pennsylvania. Not surprisingly, these are larger synods and would be more likely to have volunteers and staff in synod hunger positions.

## **Description of Work**

The next few questions on the survey asked respondents about the nature of their work as synod hunger leaders. Most of the respondents had served as a hunger leader for three years or more, with 30 percent indicating 3 to 5 years of service, 24 percent five to ten years, and 26 percent ten years or more. The majority of the respondents spend 15 hours or less per month on hunger leader work, with 47 percent spending zero to five hours per month and 40 percent spending six to 15.

There were several open-ended questions included in the survey. (See Appendix B for a complete list of frequencies.) The first question asked why respondents volunteered to be a synod hunger leader. The most frequent reason was a passion to see hunger end or a concern for the issue (29%). Other common responses were this is a basic need in our world and Jesus addressed this issue, or there was a need for volunteers and they had a desire to serve (both 19%). Several respondents commented that this was part of their call or job description (14%).

The next open-ended question asked for the name of the synod committee on which they serve as a hunger leader. There were a variety of names given, but over one-fourth of the respondents listed "World Hunger Committee" (27%). Other common names were "Synod World Hunger Task Force" (16%) and "Global Missions" (8%). One synod used the title "Hunger, Justice and Rural Life Concerns" (7%).

Most of the respondents indicated their synod does not have a “job description” for those who do hunger work (79%). On the other hand, the majority said their synod sets specific goals for hunger work (54%). When asked who in their synod initiates hunger activities or events, the most common responses were the synod committee or task force (82%) and the hunger leader (72%). Fewer respondents chose congregations making requests (39%), the bishop (32%) and the synod assembly (28%) as initiators.

Over half of the respondents indicated their synod assembly includes a hunger emphasis once a year (54%), while fewer said it was every few years (22%). Only five percent have a hunger emphasis every other year, and three percent chose “never.” The largest percentage of respondents felt that on average, congregations within their synod emphasize hunger several times a year (43%), although many chose “don’t know” (29%). About 17 percent estimated it was emphasized once a year in congregations.

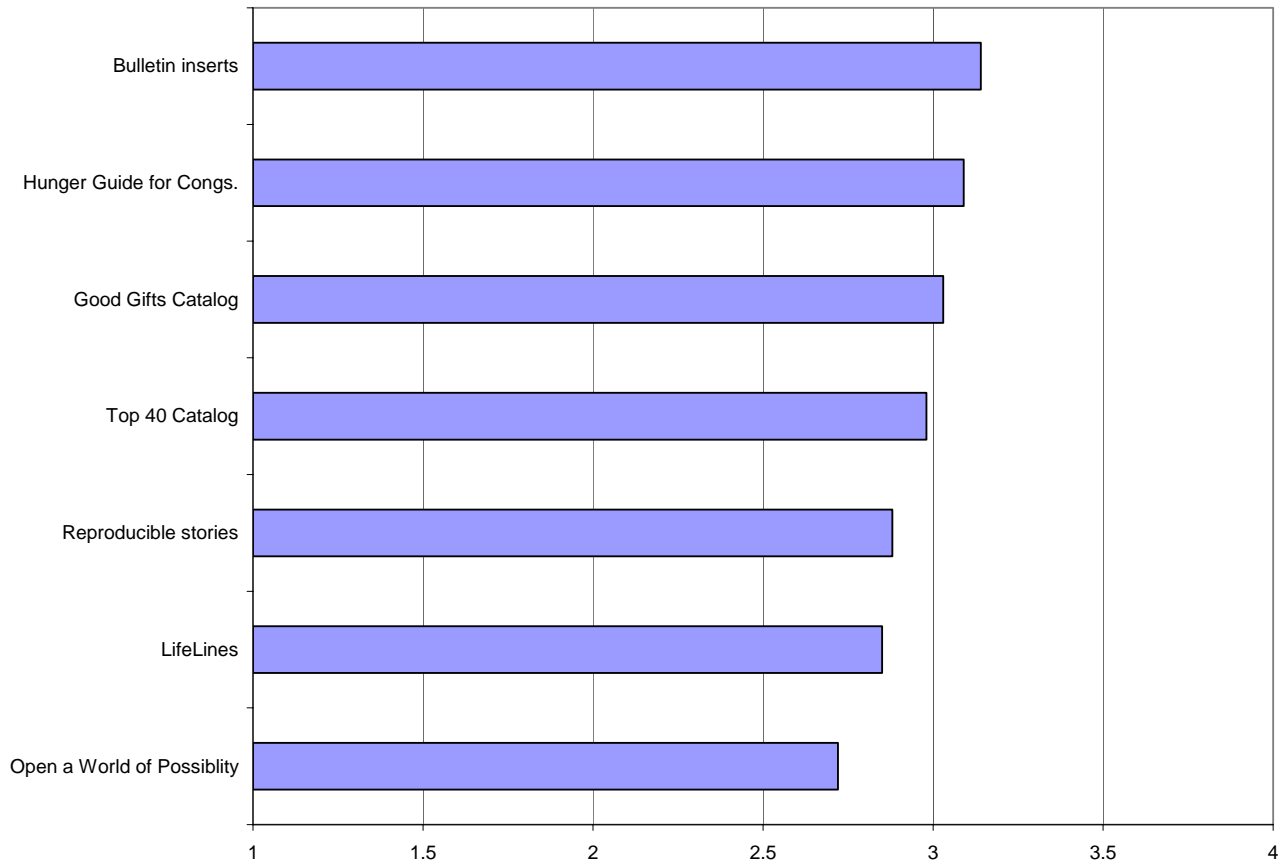
## **Resources**

The next section asked respondents about their use of various ELCA World Hunger resources. The large majority of respondents receive the biannual ELCA World Hunger Resources Packet directly (81%), while some of them receive it indirectly (11%). Only eight percent of respondents indicated they do not receive one.

Respondents were asked to rate to what degree congregations in their synod use various resources, using a four-point rating scale from 1 = “never” to 4 = “often.” Congregations most often use bulletin inserts like “The Basics” (M = 3.14), followed by the Hunger Guide for Congregations (M = 3.09). (See Figure 1.) Many congregations also use the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog (M = 3.03) and the Top 40 ELCA World Hunger Resources Catalog (M = 2.98). Used less frequently are the reproducible stories (M = 2.88), the LifeLines newsletter (M = 2.85) and Open a World of Possibility (M = 2.72).

An optional question asked for ideas that could make these resources more useful or effective. The most common response was the need for a person in each congregation who is passionate about hunger who will use the resources (23%). A few respondents suggested that the resource packets be sent directly to members of the synod hunger committee (9%).

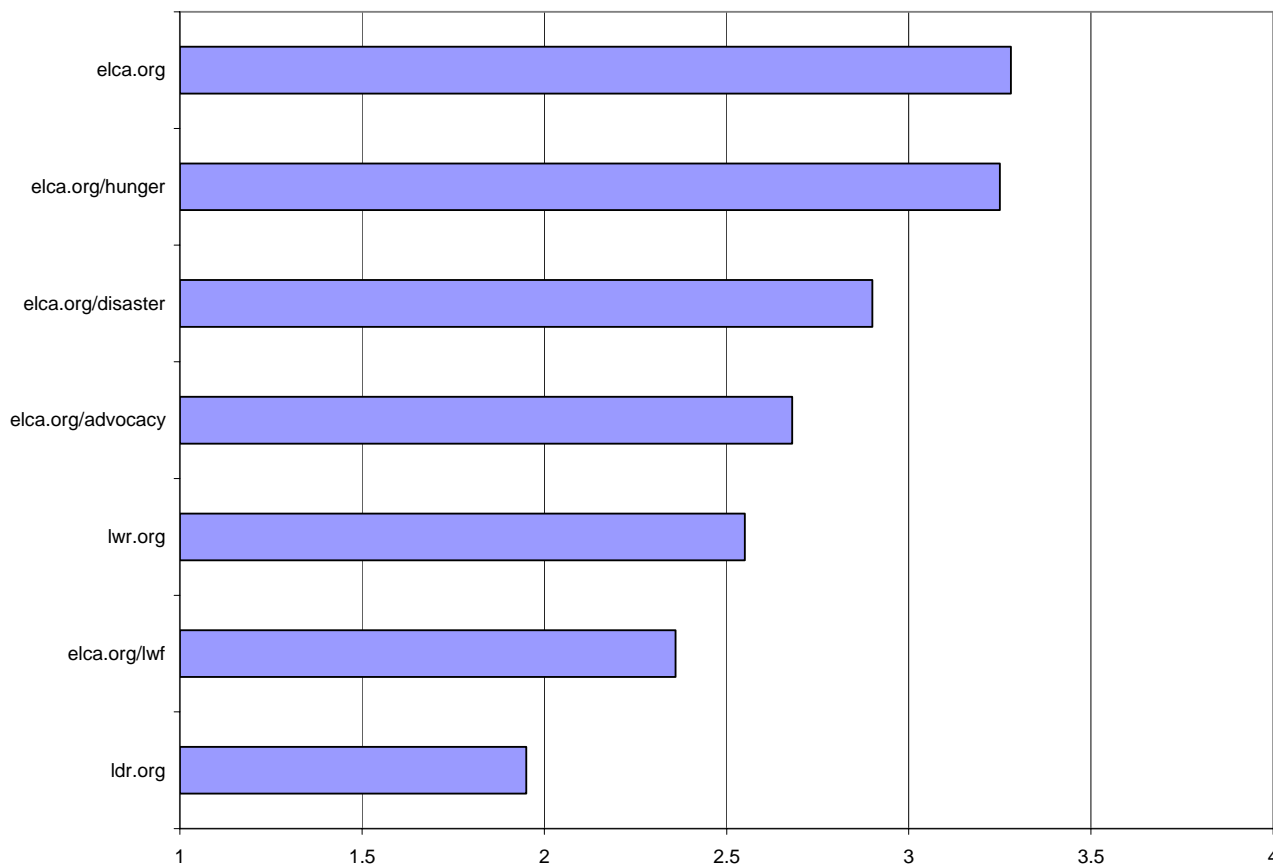
Figure 1  
Use of Resources by Congregations



We also asked synod hunger leaders about their use of various Web sites for information and resources. Using the same four-point rating scale described above, the most commonly used Web sites are [elca.org](http://elca.org) ( $M = 3.28$ ) and [elca.org/hunger](http://elca.org/hunger) ( $M = 3.25$ ). (See Figure 2.) Respondents also visit [elca.org/disaster](http://elca.org/disaster) ( $M = 2.90$ ) and [elca.org/advocacy](http://elca.org/advocacy) ( $M = 2.68$ ) with some frequency. Used less often are [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) ( $M = 2.55$ ), [elca.org/lwf](http://elca.org/lwf) ( $M = 2.36$ ) and [ldr.org](http://ldr.org) ( $M = 1.95$ ).

Another optional question asked for comments about the Web resources. Over half of those who responded felt the resources were excellent and user-friendly, and the best way to share information and resources (52%). On the other hand, some respondents said they prefer printed materials because they do not use the Internet much or use it too much at work (12%). A few respondents commented that frequent updates are very important and the Web sites are not always kept current (10%).

Figure 2  
Use of Web Sites by Synod Hunger Leaders



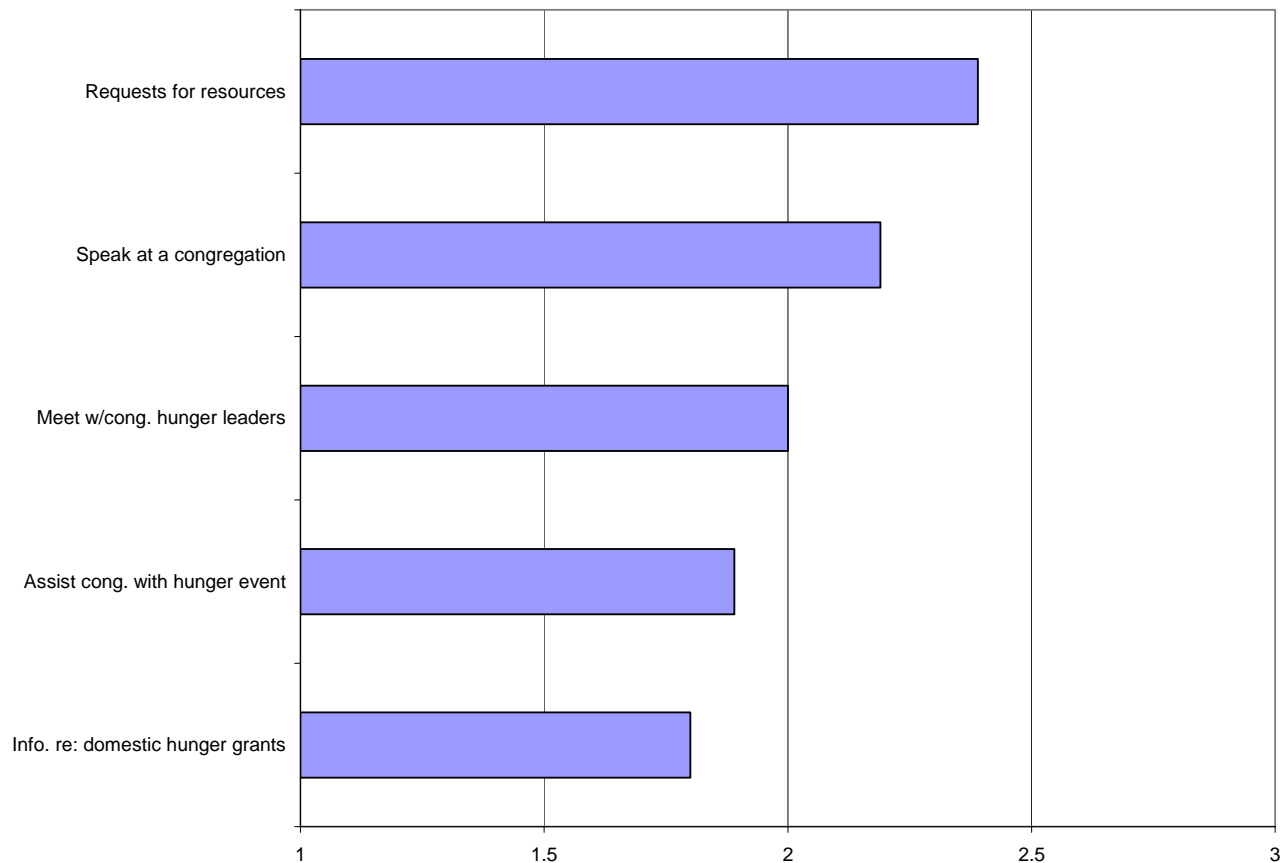
When asked which one or two resources provided by the churchwide office they find most valuable in conducting their hunger work, almost one-fourth of the respondents listed the Hunger Packet (23%). The Basics and bulletin facts were listed often (16%), as well as the Web sites (9%) and the Top 40, Good Gifts, and Alternative Giving catalogs (8%).

Participants were asked what resources and/or support from within their synod have been most helpful to their hunger ministries. Although many participants did not answer this question, the most common response was the bishop and synod staff uphold the program (22%). The synod staff (14%) and administrative support like mailing the synod hunger newsletter (10%) were also listed. A few respondents mentioned hunger displays or time at the synod assembly (8%).

### Activities

The last section of the survey asked about some specific activities performed by the synod hunger leaders. On a five-point rating scale from 1 = “rarely/never” to 5 = “1-2 times a week,” respondents were asked to rate how often they generally engage in a variety of activities. Respondents most often respond to requests for resources (M = 2.39), followed by speaking at a congregation (M = 2.19) (2 = “1-2 times a year”). (See Figure 3.) Some respondents indicated they meet with congregational hunger leaders (M = 2.00). Less common were assisting a congregation with a hunger activity or event they are holding (M = 1.89) and providing information about or assisting a congregation with the domestic hunger grant program (M = 1.80).

Figure 3  
Frequency of Synod Hunger Leader Activities

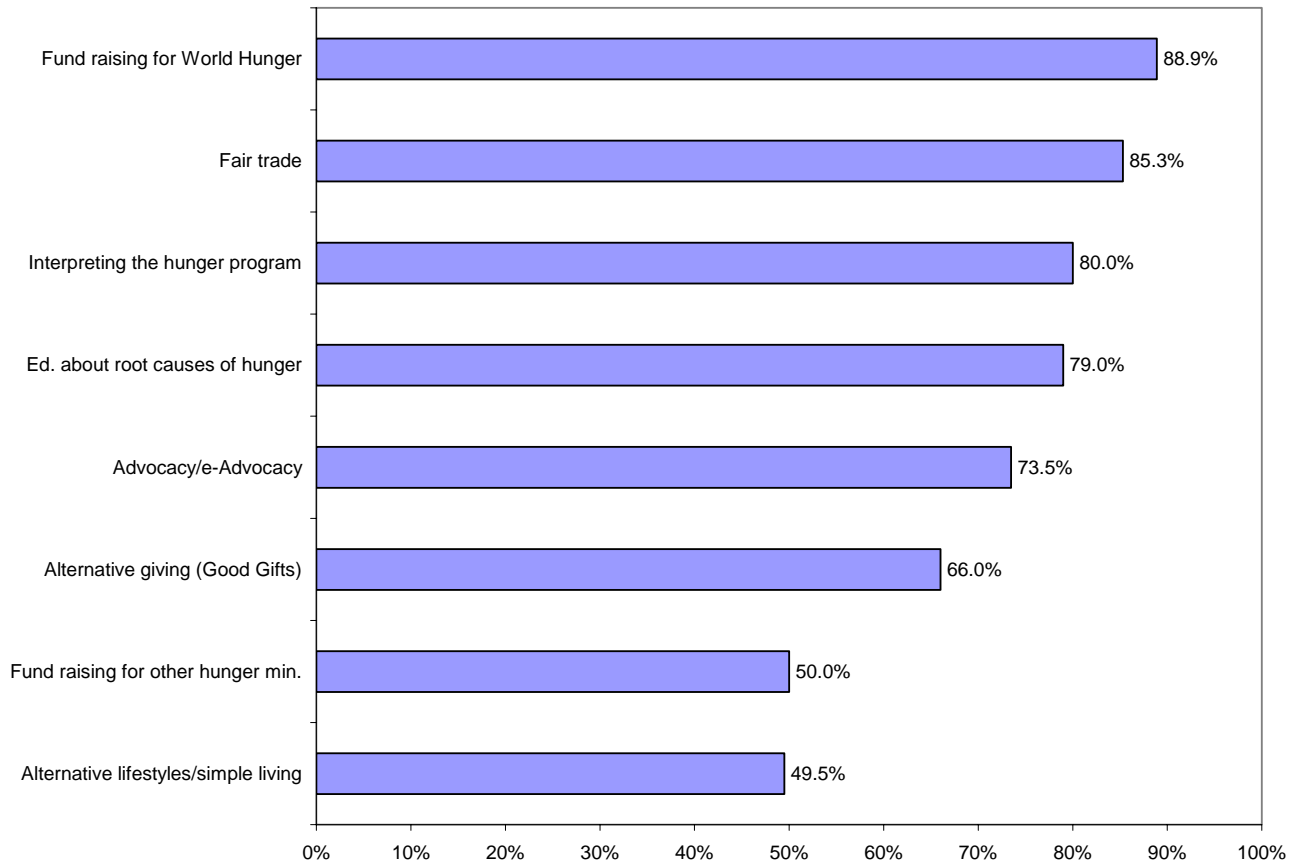


The majority of the respondents specifically recruit congregational hunger leaders (63%). When asked how they typically recruit these leaders, almost one-third of respondents use contacts with leadership in congregations (30%). Other common methods were phone calls (16%), conversations at workshops or displays at the assembly (13%) and letter-writing (10%).

Most of the respondents have displayed hunger-related resources at synod assemblies (88%), with about two-thirds introducing actions/resolutions (65%). Fewer respondents have given a formal presentation (59%) or answered questions from the assembly (50%).

When asked if they are actively involved in a variety of areas, the large majority of respondents are involved in fund raising for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (89%), fair trade (85%) and interpreting the hunger program (80%). (See Figure 4.) Other areas of high involvement are education about the root causes of hunger (79%), advocacy/e-advocacy (74%) and alternative giving (Good Gifts) (66%). Slightly less involvement was found for fund raising for another hunger ministry and alternative lifestyles/simple living (both 50%).

Figure 4  
Areas of Involvement



Less than half of the respondents serve on the synod domestic hunger grants review team (44%). In the area of connecting people in the synod with people living in poverty, the most common way was through volunteer opportunities in food pantries, shelters, etc. Sixty-two percent of respondents have encouraged participation in these activities, 53 percent assisted with them, and 22 percent organized them. Study trips were less common with 39 percent indicating they have encouraged participation in trips, 22 percent assisted with them, and 13 percent organized them. Finally, talks/lectures with people currently or formerly living in poverty were least common, with 22 percent indicating they have encouraged participation in these activities, 19 percent assisted with them, and only three percent organized them.

Participants were asked to give an example of something they have done exceptionally well in their role as a hunger leader. Many respondents made local congregations more aware of issues and made presentations at congregations (18%). Others raised money for hunger causes (10%) and shared synod hunger news items through newsletters (9%). A few mentioned workshops or retreats for hunger education as their main accomplishment (7%).

Finally, participants were asked to identify the biggest challenge they face in doing synod hunger work. The most common challenges were adequate time (16%) and getting congregational contacts or involvement (15%). Several respondents listed recruiting volunteers, competing with other causes, and keeping hunger issues in the forefront as their biggest challenges (all 9%).

## Differences by Region

We were also interested in possible differences by region. All nine regions of the ELCA were represented, but the most responses came from Region 3 (27%), Region 5 (21%) and Region 8 (13%). There were a few significant differences based on region.<sup>1</sup> (See Table 1.) The first area was whether the synod committee or task force initiates activities. All of the respondents from Region 6 said this was the case, while only half of the respondents from Regions 1 and 4 said the committee or task force initiates activities.

Table 1  
Differences by Region in Activities<sup>2</sup>

	<b>Reg. 1</b>	<b>Reg. 2</b>	<b>Reg. 3</b>	<b>Reg. 4</b>	<b>Reg. 5</b>	<b>Reg. 6</b>	<b>Reg. 7</b>	<b>Reg. 8</b>	<b>Reg. 9</b>
Committee/task force initiates activities	<b>50.0%</b>	83.3%	96.7%	<b>50.0%</b>	82.6%	<b>100%</b>	90.0%	64.3%	75.0%
Hunger emphasis at every assembly	37.5%	33.3%	55.2%	33.3%	69.6%	50.0%	<b>80.0%</b>	50.0%	<b>14.3%</b>
Involved in ed. re: root causes of hunger	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	91.7%	<b>100%</b>	81.8%	60.0%	60.0%	<b>53.8%</b>	75.0%
Encouraged participation in talks/lectures with people in poverty	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	26.7%	<b>0%</b>	4.3%	<b>0%</b>	10.0%	28.6%	37.5%

There were also regional differences found for how often the synod assembly includes a hunger emphasis. Eighty percent of respondents from Region 7 said they have a hunger emphasis once a year, while only 14 percent of respondents from Region 9 indicated they include a hunger emphasis that often. Another area with regional differences was whether respondents were actively involved in education about the root causes of hunger. All of the respondents from Regions 1, 2 and 4 said they were involved in this activity, while only 54 percent of Region 8 respondents were involved. Significant regional differences were found for encouraging participation in talks/lectures with people in poverty. Half of the respondents from Regions 1 and 2 had encouraged participation in these activities, while none of the respondents from Regions 4 and 6 had encouraged participation.

The final two regional differences were found for congregations' use of reproducible stories and hunger leaders' use of elca.org. (See Table 2.) On the four-point scale described above where 1= "never" and 4 = "often," congregations from Region 8 were most likely to use reproducible stories (M = 3.56), while Region 4 congregations were least likely to use them (M = 2.33). For elca.org, synod hunger leaders in Region 1 were most likely to use the Web site (M = 3.88), while leaders from Region 9 were least likely to use it (M = 2.50).

<sup>1</sup> All differences are significant at the .05 level.

<sup>2</sup> The highest and lowest percentages for each item are shown in bold.

Table 2  
Differences by Region in Use of Resources<sup>3</sup>

	<b>Reg. 1</b>	<b>Reg. 2</b>	<b>Reg. 3</b>	<b>Reg. 4</b>	<b>Reg. 5</b>	<b>Reg. 6</b>	<b>Reg. 7</b>	<b>Reg. 8</b>	<b>Reg. 9</b>
Reproducible stories	2.83	2.75	2.94	<b>2.33</b>	2.57	3.00	2.83	<b>3.56</b>	3.25
elca.org	<b>3.88</b>	3.17	3.07	3.83	3.38	3.83	3.10	3.23	<b>2.50</b>

## Summary and Conclusions

Overall, this survey gives us a picture of what different synods are doing in the area of hunger work. Although the response rate was somewhat low, we had good representation with 54 out of the 65 synods participating. There was a wide range of practices, but many similarities across synods emerged.

Most of the synod hunger leaders are 40 years or older, with very few young adults participating. In addition, most of the leaders had served for three years or more and were volunteers, spending 15 hours or less per month on hunger leader work.

Although most synods do not have a “job description” for those who do hunger work, most synods set specific goals for this work. In most cases, the synod committee or task force and the hunger leader initiate hunger activities or events. Most synod assemblies include a hunger emphasis every year, and many congregations emphasize hunger several times a year.

As for resources, bulletin inserts and the Hunger Guide for Congregations are used most often, with the LifeLines newsletter and Open a World of Possibility used least often by congregations. Synod hunger leaders use the Web sites elca.org and elca.org/hunger most often, and elca.org/lwf and ldr.org least often.

In the area of activities, synod hunger leaders most often respond to requests for resources and speak at congregations. They are least likely to assist congregations with a hunger event or provide information about domestic hunger grants. Most respondents specifically recruit congregational hunger leaders, typically through contacts with leadership in congregations.

Most synod hunger leaders have also displayed hunger-related resources at synod assemblies and introduced actions or resolutions. There was high involvement in the areas of fund raising for the World Hunger Appeal and Fair Trade, with lower involvement in fund raising for other hunger ministries and alternative lifestyles/simple living. The most common way of linking people in the synod with people in poverty was through volunteer opportunities in food pantries, shelters, etc.

Most of the respondents felt that the resources provided by the ELCA World Hunger Program are excellent and informative. However, many respondents commented on the need to use them. They expressed concern that the resources are not getting into the hands of the lay leaders and are getting “lost” on the pastor’s desk. Another concern listed in the comments was the difficulty of getting congregational contacts or involvement. In the section on recruiting congregational hunger leaders, several respondents commented on the difficulty of this task. This may be an area where the churchwide World Hunger Program could provide needed direction to synod hunger leaders.

<sup>3</sup> The highest and lowest means for each item are shown in bold.

**Appendix A**  
**Synod Hunger Leaders Survey**  
Frequencies (N = 116)

We would like feedback on your work as a leader in your synod's hunger ministry (hunger leader). Please complete the following questions by filling in the circles completely (●). If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Sims at 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2998 or [rebecca.sims@elca.org](mailto:rebecca.sims@elca.org).

1. Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Gender:      45.1 Female                      54.9 Male
3. Age:            0.0 15-25      2.6 26-39      51.3 40-60      46.1 61 or older
4. Synod: 54 synods represented (83%)
5. Mailing Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. E-mail Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Length of service as a hunger leader:  
                    9.9 < 1 year    9.9 1-2 years    29.7 3-5 years    24.3 5-10 years    26.1 >10 years
8. Approximately how many **hours per month** do you spend on hunger leader work?  
                    47.3 0-5      40.2 6-15      8.0 16-25      2.7 26-40      1.8 41 or more
9. Why did you volunteer to be a synod hunger leader?
  
10. What is the name of the synod committee on which you serve as a hunger leader?
  
11. Does your synod have a "job description" for those who do hunger work (i.e., synod hunger leaders)?                      20.6 Yes                      79.4 No  
If yes, please attach a copy.
12. Do you (or does your synod) set specific goals for hunger work? For example, do you have stated goals in relation to hunger fundraising, congregational relations, domestic hunger grant applications, communication, advocacy, etc.?  
                    54.4 Yes                      45.6 No  
If yes, please list or attach a copy of your most recent goals.
  
13. Who in your synod initiates hunger activities or events? (*Please choose **all** that apply.*)  
                    72.4 hunger leader                      31.9 bishop  
                    81.9 synod committee or task force                      2.6 don't know  
                    27.6 synod assembly                      11.2 other: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    38.8 congregations making requests

14. How often does your synod assembly include a hunger emphasis? *(Please choose only one answer.)*

53.5 once a year                      2.6 never  
 5.3 every other year                6.1 don't know  
 21.9 every few years                10.5 other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. On average, how often is hunger emphasized in the congregations within your synod? *(Please choose only one answer.)*

43.1 several times a year            0.0 never  
 17.4 once a year                      29.4 don't know  
 0.0 every other year                10.1 other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. How do you receive the biannual ELCA World Hunger Resources Packets?

80.7 Directly; addressed to me  
 11.4 Indirectly; it is addressed to someone else but given to me  
 7.9 I don't receive one

17. Based on your personal knowledge and/or the number of requests you receive, to what degree do congregations in your synod use the following resources?

	<u>Never</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	9	
a. Bulletin inserts like "The Basics".....	0.0	10.1	34.9	19.3	35.8	3.14
b. Reproducible stories.....	0.0	16.8	34.6	9.3	39.3	2.88
c. Hunger Guide for Congregations.....	0.0	7.5	32.7	12.1	47.7	3.09
d. Top 40 ELCA World Hunger Resources Catalog.....	0.0	11.1	32.4	10.2	46.3	2.98
e. LifeLines newsletter.....	1.9	13.2	24.5	9.4	50.9	2.85
f. Open a World of Possibility.....	1.9	16.0	31.1	4.7	46.2	2.72
g. ELCA Good Gifts Catalog.....	0.9	9.3	36.1	13.0	40.7	3.03

18. (Optional) Please offer one idea that could make ELCA World Hunger resources more useful or effective.

19. As a hunger leader in your synod, how often do you visit these Web sites for information and resources?

	<u>Never</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Mean</u>
	1	2	3	4	
a. elca.org.....	3.7	11.9	36.7	47.7	3.28
b. elca.org/disaster.....	9.2	13.8	55.0	22.0	2.90
c. elca.org/hunger.....	4.5	10.9	40.0	44.5	3.25
d. elca.org/lwf.....	22.9	30.3	34.9	11.9	2.36
e. elca.org/advocacy.....	16.7	23.1	36.1	24.1	2.68
f. lwr.org.....	19.3	24.8	37.6	18.3	2.55
g. ldr.org.....	42.3	26.9	24.0	6.7	1.95

20. (Optional) Please include your comments about the Web resources.

21. Which one or two resources provided by the churchwide office do you find most valuable in conducting your hunger work?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

22. What resources and/or support from within your synod have been most helpful to your hunger ministries? Please be as specific as possible.

23. As a part of your work as a synod hunger leader, how often do you generally engage in each of the following?

	<b>Rarely/ Never</b>	<b>1-2 times a year</b>	<b>A few times a year</b>	<b>1-2 times a month</b>	<b>1-2 times a week</b>	<b>Doesn't Apply</b>	<b>Mean</b>
	1	2	3	4	5	9	
a. Speak at a congregation.....	30.9	23.6	29.1	8.2	0.9	7.3	2.19
b. Respond to requests for resources.....	24.3	17.8	39.3	7.5	1.9	9.3	2.39
c. Meet with congregational hunger leaders.....	35.8	25.5	27.4	2.8	0.9	7.5	2.00
d. Assist a congregation with a hunger activity or event they are holding.....	32.7	38.2	20.9	0.9	0.0	7.3	1.89
e. Provide information about or assist a congregation with the domestic hunger grant program...	41.0	32.4	21.9	0.0	0.0	4.8	1.80
f. Other: _____	8.6	1.7	7.8	6.9	0.0	1.7	2.52

24. Do you specifically recruit congregational hunger leaders? 63.4 Yes 36.6 No  
If yes, how do you typically recruit them?

25. Have you participated in synod assemblies in any of the following ways?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a. Given a formal presentation	58.7	41.3
b. Introduced actions/resolutions.....	64.5	35.5
c. Answered questions from the assembly.....	50.0	50.0
d. Displayed hunger-related resources.....	88.2	11.8
e. Other: _____	29.3	6.0

26. Are you actively involved in any of the following areas?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
a. Fund raising for ELCA World Hunger Appeal .....	88.9	11.1
b. Fund raising for another hunger ministry (please name): _____	50.0	50.0
c. Advocacy/e-Advocacy .....	73.5	26.5
d. Education about root causes of hunger .....	79.0	21.0
e. Interpreting the hunger program .....	80.0	20.0
f. Alternative lifestyles/simple living.....	49.5	50.5
g. Alternative giving (Good Gifts) .....	66.0	34.0
h. Fair trade .....	85.3	14.7
i. Other: _____	6.9	11.2

27. Do you serve on the synod domestic hunger grants review team? 44.3 Yes 55.7 No

28. Have you connected people in your synod with people living in poverty through any of the following ways? (Please choose **all** that apply.)

	<u>I have encouraged participation in</u>	<u>I have assisted with</u>	<u>I have organized</u>	<u>Does not apply</u>
a. Volunteer opportunities in food pantry, shelters, etc.....	62.1	52.6	22.4	4.3
b. Study trips.....	38.8	22.4	12.9	25.0
c. Talks/lectures with people currently or formerly living in poverty .....	21.6	19.0	3.4	30.2
d. Other: _____	2.6	3.4	7.8	6.9

29. Give us an example of something you have done exceptionally well in your role as hunger leader.

30. Whom from your synod would you nominate for a Hunger Hall of Fame and why?

31. What is the biggest challenge you face in doing synod hunger work?

Please feel free to add any comments by attaching an additional sheet.

Thank you for your participation! Return to ELCA-RE, 8765 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*Living in God's amazing grace*

**Appendix B**  
**Synod Hunger Leaders Survey**  
Comments (N = 116)

**9. Why did you volunteer to be a synod hunger leader? (n = 108)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage<sup>1</sup></b>
Passion to see hunger end/concern for issue	28.7%
Basic need in our world/Jesus addressed this issue	19.4%
Need for volunteers/desire to serve/asked by someone	18.5%
Part of call/job description	13.9%
Called by God through previous committee chair/bishop/spouse	9.3%
Experience in area/good fit	3.7%
Good mentor	1.9%
Attended a mission event and got involved	1.9%
Wanted to learn more	1.9%

**10. What is the name of the synod committee on which you serve as a hunger leader? (n = 104)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
World Hunger Committee	26.9%
Synod World Hunger Task Force	16.3%
Global Missions	7.7%
Hunger, Justice and Rural Life Concerns	6.7%
Hunger Team	4.8%
Hunger Action Committee/Team	4.8%
Synod Hunger Appeal Committee	4.8%
World Hunger Work Group	3.8%
Global Mission/Hunger Committee	2.9%
Hunger Ministry Team	2.9%
Outreach Team	1.9%
Church and Society	1.9%
Synod Hunger Network	1.9%
Hunger Commission	1.9%
Stewardship Task Force	1.9%

<sup>1</sup> Percentages were calculated using the number of responses for each item.

**18. (Optional) Please offer one idea that could make ELCA World Hunger Resources more useful or effective. (n = 43)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Need person in each congregation passionate about hunger to use them	23.3%
Send resource packets directly to members of synod hunger committee	9.3%
Make hunger material more user-friendly to Sunday school teachers	4.7%
Monthly ready-to-print bulletin/newsletter inserts	4.7%
All resources should be available online for downloading by congregations	4.7%
Earlier release date before synod assemblies	4.7%
Put resources into 3- minute video	4.7%
Commitment from the top, Bishop	4.7%

**20. (Optional) Please include your comments about the Web resources. (n = 52)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Best way to share info and resources, excellent, user-friendly	51.9%
Prefer printed materials, don't use web much/use it too much at work	11.5%
Frequent updates very important, not always current	9.6%
Improved greatly over recent years but need to use them	7.7%
Sometimes find them overwhelming	3.8%
Use them for specific info	3.8%

**21. Which one or two resources provided by the churchwide office do you find most valuable in conducting your hunger work? (n = 169)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Hunger Packet	22.5%
The Basics, bulletin facts	16.0%
Web sites	8.9%
Top 40/Good Gifts/Alternative Giving catalogs	8.3%
LifeLines newsletter	5.9%
Yearly synod hunger leaders gathering	5.3%
Hands-on resources, ideas, stories	5.3%
Helpfulness of churchwide office/contacts/visits	3.0%
Posters with appeal for all ages	2.4%
Hunger info/accomplishments, national and international	2.4%
DVD's/videos	2.4%
Coin boxes	1.2%
Pictures and Power Points on Web site	1.2%
Status reports of synod contributions	1.2%
Devotionals	1.2%
Training	1.2%
Speakers	1.2%
Open a World of Possibilities	1.2%

**22. What resources and/or support from within your synod have been most helpful to your hunger ministries? Please be as specific as possible. (n = 49)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bishop and synod staff uphold the program	22.4%
Synod staff	14.3%
Mail synod hunger newsletter	10.2%
Hunger displays/assembly time	8.2%
Hunger Sunday emphasis materials	4.1%
Funding to attend Hunger Gatherings	4.1%
Ideas that others have used in congregations	4.1%
Synod Global Mission Committee/Church and Society Committee	4.1%
Thrivent/ELCA grants	4.1%
Workshops	4.1%

**24. How do you typically recruit congregational hunger leaders? (n = 88)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Through contacts with leadership in congregations	29.5%
Phone calls	15.9%
Conversation at workshops/hunger display at assembly	12.5%
Letter-writing	10.2%
Expressed interest—often 2 <sup>nd</sup> -and 3 <sup>rd</sup> -hand/word-of-mouth	8.0%
Hunger discussions/worship presentations/congregation visits	6.8%
Conference deans/conference meetings	5.7%
E-mail	2.3%
Congregational gift baskets with postcards at assembly	2.3%
Networking	2.3%

**29. Give us an example of something you have done exceptionally well in your role as hunger leader. (n = 104)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Made local congregations more aware of issues/made presentations	18.3%
Raised money for hunger causes	9.6%
Synod hunger news items/newsletters	8.7%
Workshops/retreats for hunger education	6.7%
Running Stand with Africa campaign	3.8%
Speaking at synod assembly	3.8%
Skits at synod assembly	2.9%
Recruited new leaders	2.9%
Maintaining contact with congregations	2.9%
Keeping committee enthusiastic	2.9%
Synod women actively involved in hunger issues	1.9%
Organizing the domestic grants review	1.9%
Joined with Foods Resource Bank/got congregation involved	1.9%
Hunger walk	1.9%
Raised consciousness of Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate	1.9%
Poverty immersion trips	1.9%
Synod assembly campaign/quilt auction	1.9%
Annual hunger service	1.9%
Working with schools and LYO	1.9%
Developing synod network	1.9%
Organized synod hunger event	1.9%
Educating youth groups	1.9%

**30. Whom from your synod would you nominate for a Hunger Hall of Fame and why? (n = 76)**

<b>Name and Synod</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Ken Peterson, Northeastern Minnesota	6.6%
Kathe Peterson, Northeastern Minnesota	5.3%
Gary Daniels, Northern Illinois	3.9%
Ed Payne, Minneapolis Area	3.9%
MaryAnn and Howie Wennes, Southwest California	2.6%
Vernita and Dale Kennen, Saint Paul Area	2.6%
Stan Kroll, Southeastern Iowa	2.6%
Russ Melby, Southeastern Iowa	2.6%
Deb Martin, Northern Illinois	2.6%
Kent Terry, Northern Illinois	2.6%
Bill Krenz, Lower Susquehanna	2.6%
Cindy Kopperstad, Northwest Washington	2.6%

**31. What is the biggest challenge you face in doing synod hunger work? (n = 118)**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Adequate time	16.1%
Getting congregational contacts/involvement	15.3%
Recruiting volunteers	8.5%
One of many causes congregations are asked to support	8.5%
Keeping issues in the forefront/keeping congregations focused	8.5%
Apathy	5.9%
Getting pastors involved	5.9%
Size of synod—small network	5.1%
Synod work vs. local congregation	3.4%
Convincing people of the reality of being poor	3.4%
Finding fund raising ideas	2.5%
Addressing causes of hunger/American lifestyles	2.5%
Synod financial resources	2.5%
Keeping hunger partners updated/communication	2.5%
Living in a red state/politics	1.7%
Getting direction from the bishop/support	1.7%
Isolation	1.7%