

World Food Day

October 16

Since 1945, World Food Day is an international event held on October 16. It was established at the same time as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. More than 150 countries unite each year to raise awareness of the issues surrounding poverty and hunger.

World Hunger Facts

821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. (<https://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/2021/en/>)

According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population. (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>)

In 2021, 3.8 percent of U.S. households (5.1 million households) had very low food security. (https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104656/err-309_summary.pdf?v=2718.2)

39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094. (<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/acs/acsbr17-02.html>)

Prayer

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, that they may receive the food and care that they need. Awake the spirit of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given.

Let us pray for the farmers with limited or marginal land throughout the world, for those who lack access to water and other resources, and for the light of research and support services to shine in the lives of all God's people.

Let us pray for the health of women, children, and families around the world. Let us pledge to help build healthy families, to strengthen impoverished communities, and repair the breaches which divide nations and peoples.

Activities

Organize a food drive for your local food pantry.

Donate to ELCA World Hunger Fund (<https://www.elca.org/hunger>).

Collect funds to pay off the school lunch debt at a school in your community.

If you know of a family in need, anonymously send them a gift card to a local grocery store.