**Bread for the World**

**Raising Christian Voices to End Hunger**

Churches, charities, food banks, and nonprofit organizations can’t solve hunger alone. Government programs and policies play an especially important role. In fact, federal nutrition programs provide 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities combined. This article provides information about an ELCA-supported organization called [Bread for the World](about:blank) which can help you and your congregation speak up to end hunger.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**It’s better to build a fence at the top of a cliff than to have an ambulance at the bottom.**

**– Rev. Art Simon**

In the 1970s, Rev. Art Simon, the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church on New York City’s Lower East Side, often found himself responding to emergency situations caused by hunger and poverty in his neighborhood.

Simon, along with a dozen other church leaders in the area — Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and Lutherans — began meeting to explore how they might address the local and global root causes of hunger. They saw a place for Christians to try to prevent hunger from happening in the first place rather than just reacting to it. In 1974, this group founded Bread for the World (Bread) with the mission of ending hunger in the world by speaking out to their elected officials in Washington, D.C. The 501 (c) (4) organization has connections with 50 diverse Christian denominations and more than 4,000 congregations.

Through **nonpartisan** advocacy, Bread has helped strengthen national nutrition programs and improve U.S. international assistance efforts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The policies and programs Bread fights for have impacted 320 million Americans and more than 7 billion people around the world. The Bread for the World Institute, a separately incorporated 501 (c) (3) conducts nonpartisan research and policy analysis on strategies to end hunger.

Every summer, Bread members gather in Washington for a day of meetings on Capitol Hill. When Congress is in recess and representatives are home in their districts or states, Bread members often make appointments to visit and share their concerns.

In 1975, Bread launched its first large-scale letter writing campaign, the Offering of Letters, on the right to food. The landmark Right to Food Resolution, passed overwhelmingly by Congress. Five decades later, this simple, brilliant idea of galvanizing Christians all over America continues to make an impact in influencing public policy in Washington. The focus of the annual Offering of Letters alternates annually between domestic hunger programs and international aid programs.

Learn More about [Bread for the World](about:blank)

Sign Up for Bread’s [Monthly Anti-Hunger Prayers](about:blank)

Learn how your church can hold an [Offering of Letters](about:blank)