

PASTA WITH A PURPOSE

Local Lutheran Congregation Support Neighbors in Need

[CITY/TOWN, VA] — Members and friends of [CHURCH NAME] in [CITY/TOWN] collected [NUMBER] pounds / [NUMBER] items of pasta and other food this summer to help neighbors experiencing hunger.

Hunger remains a significant concern across the Commonwealth. About **1 in 9 Virginians experiences food insecurity**, meaning they do not always have reliable access to enough food for an active, healthy life. More than **252,000 children in Virginia** face food insecurity. Rising food costs have made the challenge even greater for many households.

Food costs continue to put pressure on household budgets. Nationally, grocery prices were 2.7% higher in July 2026 than a year earlier, while prices for rice, pasta, and cornmeal rose 3.9%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The collection was part of **Pasta with a Purpose**, an initiative of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Congregations across Virginia were invited to collect pasta and related foods during the summer, when school cafeterias are often closed and local food pantries often see donations decline even as families continue to need assistance.

[CHURCH NAME] donated its collection to [NAME OF LOCAL FOOD PANTRY, FOOD BANK, OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION].

“[OPTIONAL QUOTE FROM PASTOR, CONGREGATIONAL LEADER, OR PARTICIPANT — for example: *Our faith calls us to love and serve our neighbors. Pasta with a Purpose gave everyone in our congregation a simple way to help put food on the tables of families in our own community.*]”

[CHURCH NAME] is located at [ADDRESS]. To learn more about the congregation, visit [CHURCH WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA].

Media Contact:

[NAME]

[CHURCH NAME]

[PHONE]

[EMAIL]

Sponsored by the Virginia Synod Hunger Task Force.

Learn more at: vasynod.org/resources/world-hunger