



Advent greetings, neighbor!



This season, ELCA World Hunger is all about neighbors. We invite you to strengthen your neighborhoods, to make new neighbors, to see your longtime neighbors in new ways and to expand your understanding of who can be a neighbor.

Inspired by Mary's Magnificat, ELCA World Hunger's Advent theme is "Filled With Good Things," an invitation for all of us to strengthen our relationships with our neighbors by sharing our abundance.

The devotional guide provides reflections on neighborliness for each of the four Sundays in Advent; these can be read individually or in a group study. Each entry suggests ways to strengthen your community and, if you have children, to reflect on the biblical texts in a way that builds their self-awareness and empathy.

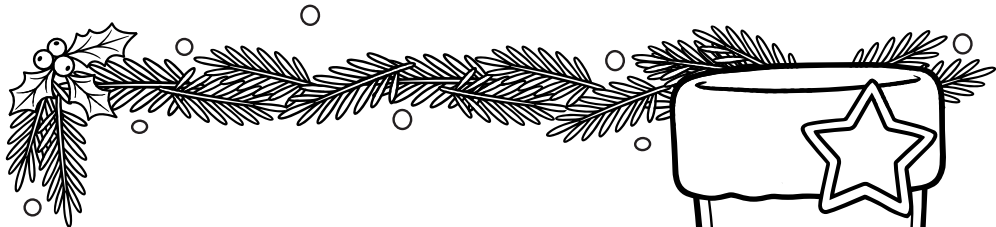
The reflections are accompanied by an Advent calendar and coloring kit. Build neighborly relationships, near and far, as you participate in the Advent calendar activities, from daily reflection to opportunities to share your abundance. The coloring kit is back this year as an opportunity to decorate your hearth and home with a lively neighborhood scene, celebrating the ways God has gifted us to one another.

We prayerfully invite your household, congregation and community to give thanks for the "good things" you have and to use those gifts on behalf of your neighbors.



color
me!





Stocking the Streets Bags

Stocking the Streets is an effort by ELCA World Hunger and your community to care for all our neighbors, some of whom lack a roof over their heads. A Stocking the Streets bag includes the items most frequently requested by individuals facing homelessness.



Post a list of items next to your Christmas tree or Advent calendar, along with the bag or bags you will fill. See a list of suggested items at **ELCA.org/WHAdvent**. Go shopping — together with family, friends or your church community — early in the season for all the items on the list. Starting on the 12th day of Advent, put one item per day in your Stocking the Streets bag. In the days following Christmas, you will be ready to pass out your bags when needed or bring them to a local social services organization that works with unhoused folks.

Some notes as you prepare and give out your bags:

- You can give these bags to individuals you meet who are homeless or donate them to a local organization that works with people facing homelessness.
- Contact local agencies that work with people facing homelessness, and solicit suggestions for items that are more critical in your locality.
- Do not give out money.
- Gallon bags work well, but you can also sew your own.

