

FOR SUPPORTERS OF ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

STORIES FROM OUR CHURCH'S  
HUNGER AND DISASTER  
RESPONSE MINISTRIES

Spring 2026  
ELCA.org/hunger | ELCA.org/disaster

# Lifelines



2025  
Year in Review

LWF/Cameroon



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



*“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,  
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,  
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed.”*  
—Isaiah 54:10

As Christians, we know God calls us to show up for our neighbors in need. That call led our church to establish ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response over 50 years ago. With the faithful support of donors such as you, those programs have grown to accompany our neighbors impacted by hunger, poverty and disasters **in about 70 countries around the world** today.

Through your generosity, you have met so many of your siblings in Christ during their greatest struggles, at the moments they were most in need of hope. At first glance, that’s what the stories in this issue of “LifeLines” are about. But there’s another, deeper story in these pages that’s just as powerful: You don’t just show up for your neighbors – you stay with them. Your steadfast generosity, advocacy and action bring us together in continuing community.

We hope you’ll see what we mean as you read on. In Peru, you are strengthening a soup kitchen that has been rooted in the community since the 1980s. In rural Tanzania, where U.S. funding cuts have disrupted the supply of medical resources, you have made it possible for doctors to be trained so they can give their neighbors the care they need. In Minnesota, you are enabling a church with a long-standing dinner ministry to grow new ways to feed its neighbors. And in India, you are working alongside a vulnerable coastal community to build resilience in the face of future storms.

In the last year, many of our neighbors have faced new challenges – in addition to the ones they were already up against – as costs have risen and government funding has been cut. Your incredible generosity has allowed our church to honor its commitments to our partners, fill gaps when other organizations cannot, and remain a steadfast, loving presence in these communities.

**In 2025, combined support for ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response exceeded \$36 million. Thank you!**

Even when everything in our world shifts and changes, God promises never to leave us. Because of your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response, God’s steadfast love shines through you. The church, our church, continues to be present in these communities. Thank you for helping to sustain this work and these ministries – walking with communities through the cycle of disaster and working toward a just world where all are fed.

With thanks for your ministry and partnership,

*Susannah Cunningham*

Susannah Cunningham  
Senior Director,  
Building Resilient Communities

John Eggen  
Senior Director,  
Annual Giving



Susannah  
Cunningham  
Senior Director,  
Building Resilient  
Communities



John Eggen  
Senior Director,  
Annual Giving

## HOW TO GIVE

### Online

[ELCA.org/GiveWH](https://ELCA.org/GiveWH)  
[ELCA.org/GiveLDR](https://ELCA.org/GiveLDR)

### Phone

800-638-3522

### Mail

Make checks payable to  
“ELCA World Hunger” or  
“Lutheran Disaster Response”  
and mail to:

ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

## CONTACT US

### Email

[hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org)  
[disaster@elca.org](mailto:disaster@elca.org)

### Phone

800-638-3522, ext. 2616

## VIEW THIS ISSUE ONLINE

[ELCA.org/hunger/resources](https://ELCA.org/hunger/resources)

© 2026 Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America. ELCA  
congregations may reproduce  
this newsletter in part or in  
its entirety.

# Lifelines

## **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**

**NUTRITION** 4  
Nourishing the Spirit

**HEALTH** 5  
Caring for Community in Tanzania

**COMMUNITY** 6  
Growing Support for Our Neighbors

## **YEAR IN REVIEW**

**MAPPING OUR IMPACT** 8  
Your Gifts at Work

**FINANCIALS** 10  
2025 Financial Highlights

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**  
Creating a Safer Future in India 14

# Nourishing the Spirit

**P**ilar, who lives in Peru, first went to a soup kitchen looking for a hot meal. She found that and much more. Beyond feeding her body, the soup kitchen – supported by donors such as you – has nourished her spirit and transformed her life.

In the 1980s, Peru was in a social and economic crisis. Grassroots soup kitchens began rising up across the country in response, largely led by women in the community. It was during this time that Pilar first visited her local soup kitchen. She had her first daughter when she was a teenager and dropped out of high school to care for her. Shortly after the birth of her second child, Pilar separated from her husband. She remembers feeling like the dreams she had for her family had “vanished.” She was having a hard time supporting her two children on her own while working as a dancer.

At the soup kitchen, Pilar found the food she needed along with a community. She says the women who established the program taught her that together, “we are powerful.” Pilar quickly became involved as a volunteer herself, cooking with firewood, asking for donations and carrying water.

Since the early days, Peru’s soup kitchens have grown into an established program, deeply rooted in the community. The Peruvian government now provides space and some funding for the kitchens in Pilar’s district. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help stock the kitchens and support their staff and volunteers. In addition to serving over 16,000 nutritious meals every month, Pilar’s soup kitchen



*Pilar (far left) has been a soup kitchen volunteer for over 40 years.*

offers “Learning to be an Entrepreneur” workshops, loans for women starting small businesses, climate-justice trainings and more.

Pilar has pursued new dreams and projects over the years, including a small business selling food she cooks. But she remains dedicated to volunteering, leading a soup kitchen in Lima and serving as the treasurer for all the kitchens in her district. Pilar has also remarried and raised a total of five children, whom she has empowered with the strength she learned from her fellow soup kitchen volunteers.

Pilar, now 71, is dedicated to training new generations to continue this work, transforming her community and country. She says soup kitchens have allowed her and her neighbors “to recognize and value what we do and what we know in order to train other powerful women.”

Your generosity is providing Pilar and others like her with the food they need today and hope for tomorrow. Thank you.



Feeding ministries provide immediate support to those in need. With community gardens and agricultural programs, communities grow food to nourish themselves and build stronger futures.

# Caring for Community in Tanzania

**F**or almost as long as Benjamin Mgilima Rajabu can remember, he has dreamed of becoming a doctor and caring for the people in his rural Tanzanian community. For many years, that dream seemed impossibly distant. It may have remained out of reach if it hadn't been for your generous gifts.

When Benjamin was 3 years old, he lost his father to complications from diabetes. This left his mother on her own to raise and care for her eight children.

For Benjamin, his father's death ignited a passion for medicine. Benjamin came to believe that his father could have been saved if he had access to quality health care. He wanted to find a way to bring lifesaving care to others in his community. "Knowing the challenges of our country's health systems," he says, "I promised to study and become a doctor and help those in need."

Even though Benjamin was accepted into a university medical program, he couldn't study there right away because of the cost and the required five years away from his family. Fortunately, your generosity helped Benjamin find another path forward. He completed a diploma course in clinical medicine and then began volunteering at a nearby hospital run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), which benefits from your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. While he volunteered, your generosity helped provide Benjamin with a stipend to cover his expenses and support his family.

"[I want] to continue helping the community and the church, which built trust in me."

—Dr. Benjamin Mgilima Rajabu



Eventually, Benjamin was able to enroll in a Doctor of Medicine program at a university. When he completes his internship and earns his degree, Benjamin plans to return to that hospital as a general practitioner "to continue helping the community and the church, which built trust in me."

Recently, the need for health care in rural Tanzania has only increased as U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding has been cut. Other area medical facilities have had to shut down. Your support enables our church to continue walking alongside our siblings in Tanzania, supporting skilled and passionate doctors such as Benjamin and helping to provide quality care for our neighbors.

"Being a doctor was my lifelong dream," Benjamin says, "and helping people in need was and will always be my priority." Your generosity helps Benjamin and his whole community build a stronger, healthier future.



**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are also at work in Tanzania, preventing and treating HIV in adolescents, filling a gap left by U.S. government funding cuts.**



ELCA World Hunger supports health programs around the world where your gifts fund clinical care, maternal and child health, education of health professionals, and community health care workers as they provide early screenings and education in disease prevention.

# Growing Support for our Neighbors

**J**enna and Georgia were in their second year of confirmation studies at Grace Lutheran Church in Fairmont, Minn., when a speaker came to talk to their class about hunger. The speaker shared global and local statistics that alarmed them. “It is hard to accept the fact that I cross paths with so many people experiencing food insecurity,” Jenna says.

The speaker also talked about the ways they could get involved in combating hunger. A lot of them – such as food drives and pantries – were activities their congregation was already doing. Every Wednesday evening, Grace hosts an “Open Door” community meal for anyone who wants a free, hot meal and some company. The congregation regularly welcomes about 200 people of all ages from Fairmont and the surrounding rural area, which has especially high rates of food insecurity compared to the rest of the state. Donors such as you are supporting this work through an ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread grant, which will allow Grace to expand its advertising, prepare more food and welcome more people through its doors.

Because of Open Door and other feeding ministries at Grace, Jenna and Georgia already knew some ways they could answer God’s call to feed their neighbors. Still, they wanted to do more – and the confirmation speaker mentioned one thing Jenna and Georgia hadn’t thought of before: a community garden.



*Jenna and Georgia are leading their congregation to plant a community garden with the support of donors such as you.*

They brought the idea to their pastor, who suggested that they could use an old Girl Scouts garden plot nearby to grow produce for the Open Door meals. Last summer, Jenna and Georgia started weeding the plot, cleaning it up and planting seeds. Unfortunately, they had to pause the project due to their busy schedules and a lack of funds for supplies.

This year though, donors such as you are going to help them make their dream of a community garden a reality. Your gifts have helped provide Grace with an additional ELCA World Hunger grant



Your generosity provides care for our closest neighbors. By supporting programs here at home, such as feeding ministries, you help meet immediate needs for the most vulnerable and strengthen communities for years to come.



that will allow the congregation to buy seeds and tools. As the gardening ministry grows, it will also include volunteers from the congregation and community who can care for the garden.

The produce they grow will be especially important to the community as government funding cuts make resources scarcer. Other nearby food distribution sites sometimes struggle to keep fresh, healthy food on hand. The Grace congregation hopes their garden will help fill the need for nutritious fruits and vegetables.

Overall, Jenna and Georgia believe this project will bring their neighbors closer together. “While our church members are working together in partnership to grow a garden, they will be living out our faith through actions,” Georgia says. “Our church will feel closely linked to our community, ensuring that no family worries about where its next meal comes from.”

Your generosity is helping Grace deepen roots in the community **and** grow in new directions.



## Daily Bread Grant Update

In recent months, rising inflation, job losses and reduced government benefits have made it harder for families nationwide to afford the food they need. Feeding ministries across ELCA World Hunger's network are reporting lines two or even three times longer than before, with fewer donations coming in.

**Thanks to your generosity, our church is rising up to meet this challenging moment.**

ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread grants are gifts of up to \$500 that go to ELCA congregations and ministries that serve their closest neighbors through existing feeding programs. In 2025, ELCA World Hunger received over **15 times** the number of Daily Bread grant applications than in 2024. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response made it possible to quickly expand the Daily Bread program.



**665 Daily Bread grants** were awarded.



**172 grants** (of the total 665) were supported by your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response.



**65 ELCA synods** had feeding ministries that submitted an application (that's 100!).

Because of you, more of our neighbors have the daily bread they need. *Thank you!*



Scan to learn how you can give the gift of a Daily Bread grant!

# Thank you!

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

**United States** | In Oregon, your gifts are empowering La Casa Común ("the common home") to "create the world we want to live in now" through community space, affordable housing, a shared kitchen, community organizing circles and more. Over the last three years, this ministry has trained over 50 people in community organizing and kept 20 families housed who were facing the threat of eviction.



**Serbia** | The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO) — supported by your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response and AMMPARO, the ELCA's strategy to accompany migrants — provides space for immigrants and refugees to rest and rebuild their lives. One resident at an EHO camp in Principovac traveled there because he had heard it would be warm and comfortable, and the people were kind. When he arrived, he says, "I'm glad it was true." He can enjoy resting there while he prepares for the rest of his journey.



**Nigeria** | Naret and her five children had to flee when a violent attack devastated her community in Nigeria. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response helped provide her with food, essential supplies, and counseling to help her process her grief and trauma. "Your act of love has strengthened me," she says. "I have some peace in my heart now, and I believe better days are coming."



**Iraq** | Farmers in Iraq are experiencing the long-term effects of war, infrastructure damage and water scarcity driven by their changing climate. You are helping them find new, sustainable ways to water their crops and feed their families. Farmer Wansa received a sprinkler irrigation system and training in how to use it. "The new irrigation technique led me to reduce the costs in farming," she says, "and my income doubled and made me financially stable."

## ELCA World Hunger

59 countries | 49 states and territories

### INTERNATIONAL

Angola  
 Argentina  
 Bangladesh  
 Bolivia  
 Brazil  
 Burundi  
 Cambodia  
 Cameroon  
 Central African Republic  
 Chile  
 Colombia  
 Czech Republic  
 El Salvador  
 Ethiopia  
 Gambia  
 Ghana  
 Guatemala  
 Guinea  
 Haiti  
 Honduras  
 Hungary  
 India  
 Indonesia  
 Iraq  
 Japan  
 Jerusalem  
 Jordan  
 Kenya  
 Kyrgyzstan  
 Lebanon  
 Liberia  
 Madagascar  
 Malawi  
 Malaysia  
 Mexico  
 Mozambique  
 Myanmar  
 Namibia  
 Nepal  
 Nicaragua  
 Palestinian territories  
 Papua New Guinea  
 Peru  
 Romania  
 Rwanda  
 Senegal  
 Serbia  
 Sierra Leone  
 Slovakia  
 South Africa  
 South Sudan  
 Tanzania  
 Thailand  
 Timor Leste  
 Uganda  
 Venezuela  
 Vietnam  
 Zimbabwe

### UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN

Alabama  
 Alaska  
 Arizona  
 Arkansas  
 California  
 Colorado  
 Connecticut  
 Delaware  
 District of Columbia  
 Florida  
 Georgia  
 Hawai'i  
 Idaho  
 Illinois  
 Indiana  
 Iowa  
 Kansas  
 Kentucky  
 Louisiana  
 Maine  
 Maryland  
 Massachusetts  
 Michigan  
 Minnesota  
 Missouri  
 Montana  
 Nebraska  
 New Hampshire  
 New Jersey  
 New Mexico  
 New York  
 North Carolina  
 North Dakota  
 Ohio  
 Oklahoma  
 Oregon  
 Pennsylvania  
 Puerto Rico  
 South Carolina  
 South Dakota  
 Tennessee  
 Texas  
 Utah  
 Vermont  
 Virginia  
 Washington  
 West Virginia  
 Wisconsin  
 Wyoming

## Lutheran Disaster Response

52 countries | 35 states and territories

### INTERNATIONAL

Afghanistan  
*Earthquake*  
 Bangladesh  
*Conflict, flood*  
 Belarus  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 Bolivia  
*Fire*  
 Burundi  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 Cambodia  
*Conflict*  
 Cameroon  
*Disaster risk reduction*  
 Central African Republic  
*Conflict, disaster risk reduction*  
 Chad  
*Conflict, support for refugees, disaster risk reduction*  
 Chile  
 AMMPARO  
 Colombia  
 AMMPARO  
 Costa Rica  
 AMMPARO  
 Democratic Republic of Congo  
*Health*  
 Egypt  
 AMMPARO, *conflict, support for refugees*  
 El Salvador  
 AMMPARO  
 Ethiopia  
*Drought, flood, mudslide, windstorm*  
 Guatemala  
 AMMPARO  
 Guinea  
*Stampede*  
 Haiti  
*Conflict, hurricane*  
 Honduras  
 AMMPARO  
 Hungary  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 India  
*Conflict, disaster risk reduction, flood*  
 Indonesia  
*Flood*  
 Jerusalem  
*Conflict*  
 Lebanon  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 Liberia  
*Conflict, health*  
 Malawi  
*Drought*  
 Malaysia  
*Fire, AMMPARO*  
 Mexico  
 AMMPARO  
 Moldova  
*Conflict*  
 Myanmar  
*Conflict, earthquake*  
 Namibia  
*Drought*  
 Nepal  
*Flood, disaster risk reduction*  
 Nigeria  
*Conflict*  
 Pakistan  
*Flood*  
 Palestinian territories  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 Peru  
 AMMPARO  
 Poland  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 Romania  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 Serbia  
 AMMPARO  
 Sierra Leone  
*Health*  
 Somalia  
*Drought*  
 South Sudan  
*Conflict, support for refugees, flood, health*  
 Sri Lanka  
*Cyclone*  
 Syria  
*Conflict, health*  
 Tanzania  
*Global funding cuts*  
 Thailand  
 AMMPARO  
 Uganda  
*Conflict*  
 Ukraine  
*Conflict, support for refugees*  
 Venezuela  
*Conflict, flood*  
 Zimbabwe  
*Drought*

### UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN

Alabama  
*Disaster preparedness, tornadoes*  
 Alaska  
*Typhoon*  
 Arizona  
*Extreme heat, clean water*  
 Arkansas  
*Tornadoes*  
 Bahamas  
*Disaster preparedness*  
 California  
 AMMPARO, *conflict, disaster preparedness, policy impact emergency response, wildfires*  
 District of Columbia  
*Advocacy, AMMPARO, global funding cuts*  
 Florida  
*Disaster preparedness, hurricanes*  
 Georgia  
*Disaster preparedness, hurricanes, gun violence, tornadoes*  
 Hawai'i  
*Emotional and spiritual care, wildfires*  
 Illinois  
 AMMPARO, *flooding*  
 Indiana  
*Disaster preparedness, tornadoes*  
 Iowa  
 AMMPARO  
 Kentucky  
*Disaster preparedness, flooding, tornadoes*  
 Louisiana  
*Disaster preparedness, hurricanes*  
 Maryland  
*Advocacy, community resilience, education, flooding, global funding cuts, tidal flooding*  
 Michigan  
 AMMPARO, *conflict*  
 Minnesota  
 AMMPARO, *policy impact emergency response, severe storm*  
 Mississippi  
*Disaster preparedness, clean water, tornadoes*  
 New Jersey  
 AMMPARO  
 New York  
*Advocacy, AMMPARO, conflict, global funding cuts, lead contamination*  
 North Carolina  
 AMMPARO, *disaster preparedness, flooding, policy impact emergency response, hurricanes*  
 North Dakota  
*Disaster preparedness, food security, severe storm*  
 Oklahoma  
 AMMPARO, *emotional and spiritual care, flooding, tornadoes*  
 Oregon  
*Climate resiliency, disaster preparedness, flooding, wildfires*  
 Pennsylvania  
*Flooding, hurricane, capacity building*  
 Puerto Rico  
*Disaster preparedness, hurricanes*  
 South Carolina  
*Disaster preparedness, hurricanes*  
 South Dakota  
*Extreme cold and houselessness, flooding, severe storm*  
 Tennessee  
*Disaster preparedness, flooding, hurricanes, severe storm, tornadoes*  
 Texas  
 AMMPARO, *disaster preparedness, flooding*  
 Virginia  
*Hurricanes*  
 Washington  
*Policy impact emergency response*  
 West Virginia  
*Severe storm*  
 Wisconsin  
*Flooding*



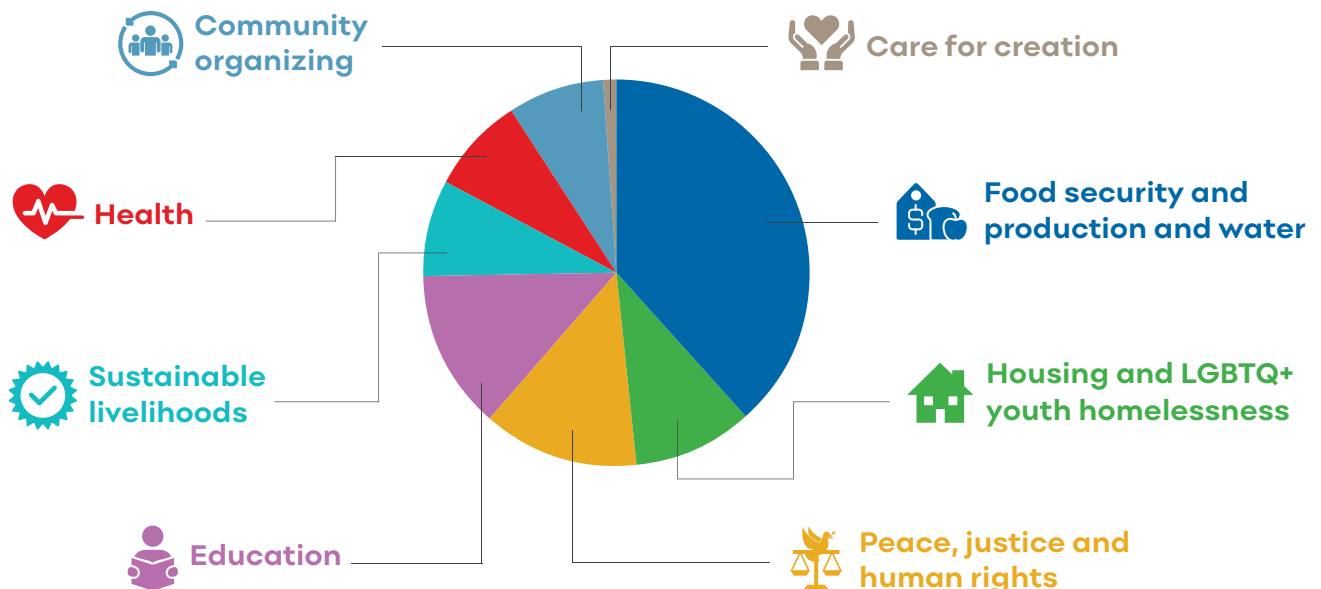
**“What was most powerful for me about the gathering was seeing people from all across the church gathered to discuss and plan and learn about something important to all of us: helping build a more just and loving world where all are fed.”**

**—The Rev. Sarah Stadler**

## ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering

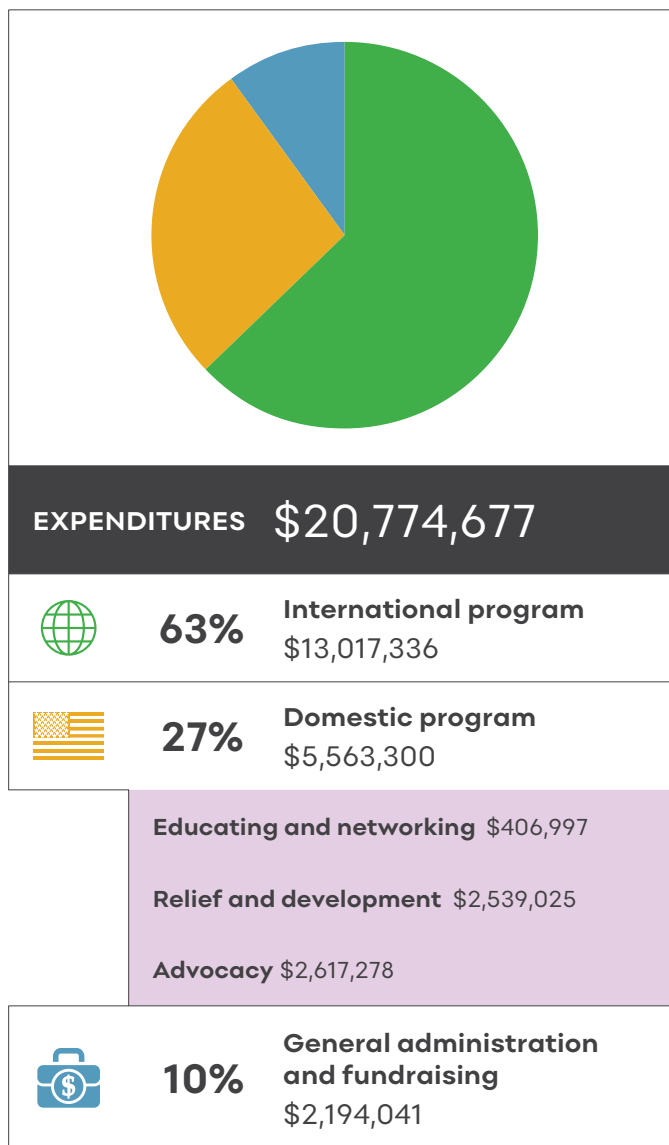
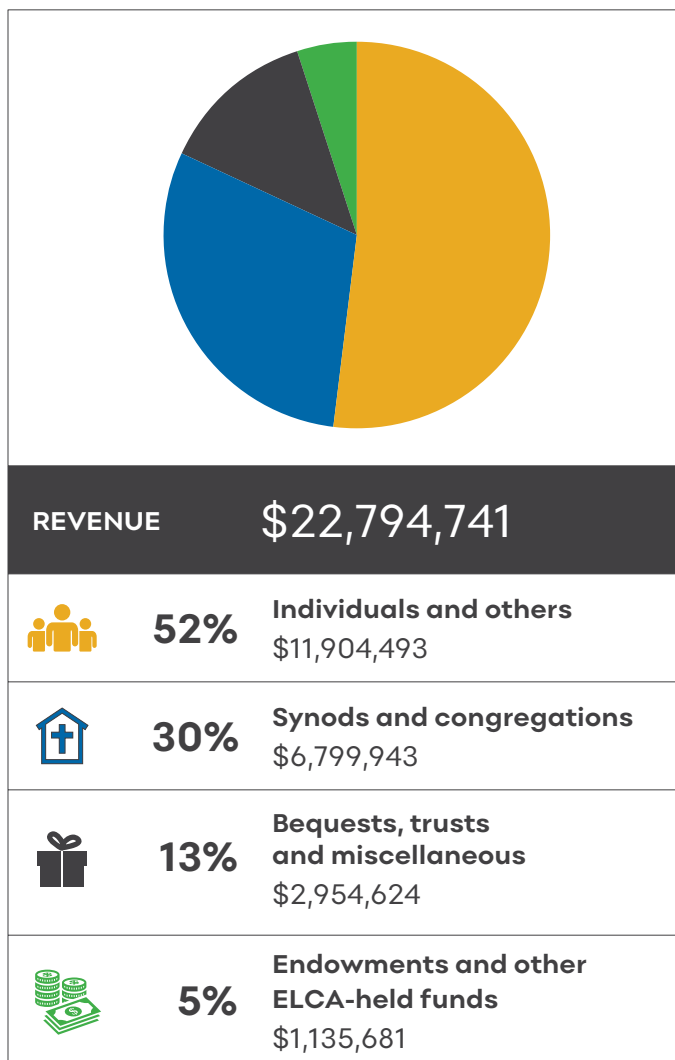
About 130 hunger leaders from across the ELCA – including more than 30 youth and young adults – attended the 2025 ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering with the Micah 6:8-inspired theme of “Do. Love. Move: Toward a World Without Hunger.” Participants engaged in worship, learning sessions, planning and hands-on learning experiences with local partners in Ohio, where the gathering took place. Now, they are putting their new knowledge to work in their synods and congregations across the country.

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER**  
Domestic projects by sector

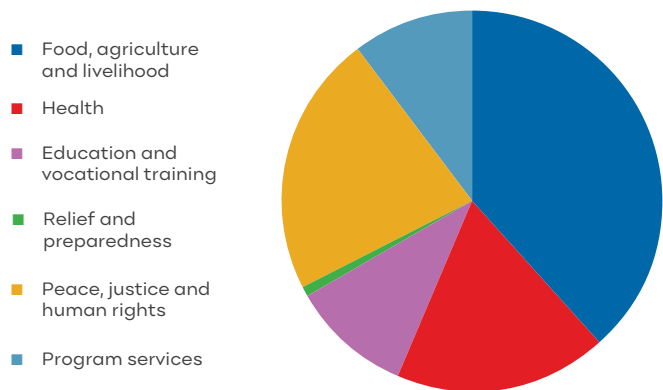


Single projects may be represented on this chart more than once because domestic partners of ELCA World Hunger work across sectors. Daily Bread grants are not included here.

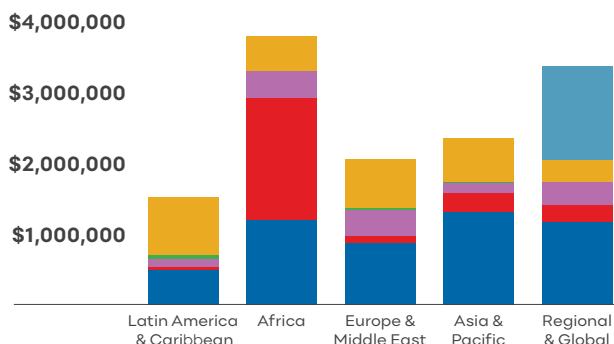
# 2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



**ELCA WORLD HUNGER**  
International projects by sector



**ELCA WORLD HUNGER**  
Expenditures by region



*Note: Bequests to ELCA World Hunger may be utilized over multiple years to provide continuity in program support. This may result in timing differences between income and expenses in a given fiscal year.*







Unaudited financial highlights for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2026.





Nearly three years after wildfires tore through Maui, Hawai'i, the community is still rebuilding and recovering. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you have remained alongside them. Your generosity has supported partners such as the Kelawea Mauka Community Hub, which delivers food and other vital supplies by land and by sea.



# 2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE		\$13,235,617
BY SOURCE		
	52%	<b>Individuals and others</b> \$6,914,733
	41%	<b>Synods and congregations</b> \$5,360,344
	6%	<b>Bequests, trusts and miscellaneous</b> \$853,529
	1%	<b>Endowments and other ELCA-held funds</b> \$107,011
BY DESIGNATION		
	67%	<b>General undesignated support</b> \$8,894,262
	33%	<b>Specific designated support</b> \$4,341,355

EXPENDITURES		\$18,623,000
BY TYPE		
	58%	<b>International</b> \$10,745,604
	37%	<b>United States</b> \$6,865,876
	5%	<b>Fundraising and administration</b> \$1,011,520
BY FUND		
	61%	<b>Specific designated support</b> \$11,275,021
	39%	<b>General undesignated support</b> \$7,347,979

HIGHLIGHTED EXPENDITURES	
UNITED STATES	
	<b>30%</b> Wildfires
	<b>20%</b> Hurricanes
	<b>13%</b> Disaster preparedness and capacity building
	<b>9%</b> Global funding cuts and policy impact response
	<b>9%</b> Flooding, severe storms and other disasters
	<b>6%</b> AMMPARO
	<b>6%</b> Tornadoes
	<b>7%</b> Operations
INTERNATIONAL	
	<b>24%</b> <b>Africa</b> <i>(Conflict, disaster risk reduction, drought, flood, gender justice, global funding cuts, health, mudslide, stampede, support for refugees)</i>
	<b>22%</b> <b>Europe</b> <i>(Russia-Ukraine war, AMMPARO, support for refugees)</i>
	<b>18%</b> <b>Latin America and Caribbean</b> <i>(AMMPARO, conflict, fire, flood, hurricane)</i>
	<b>14%</b> <b>Asia</b> <i>(Capacity sharing, AMMPARO, conflict, cyclone, disaster risk reduction, earthquake, fire, flood, human trafficking, support for refugees)</i>
	<b>13%</b> <b>Middle East and North Africa</b> <i>(AMMPARO, education, conflict, global funding cuts, health, support for refugees)</i>
	<b>7%</b> <b>Global grants</b> <i>(Conflict, global disaster response, human trafficking, humanitarian operations and coordination, disaster risk reduction)</i>
	<b>2%</b> <b>Operations</b>

Note: Expenditures exceed income primarily due to disasters for which there is a multi-year response.

Percentages are approximate.

# Creating a Safer Future in India



*In the coastal region of Pulicat, India, your generosity is helping prepare the community for future storms. You are supporting activities for youth such as search and rescue training (left) and a “Voices of the Coast” newsletter (above).*

**F**or many years, storms have shaped the lives of C. Priyadharshini and her neighbors. The eighth grader lives in the coastal Pulicat region of India, where her father is a fisherman. His work – as well as his ability to provide for his family – is often impacted by storms, heavy rains and cyclones. The storms made Priyadharshini worry for her family’s safety too. “During [the] rainy season I used to feel scared and anxious,” she says.

Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you give communities many ways to cope with disasters. You enable people like Priyadharshini and her father to rebuild their properties, livelihoods and lives after storms strike. And beyond that, you

help them become stronger and more resilient if another one comes.

Last year, Priyadharshini participated in an Adolescent Resilience Group in her village, run by a local Lutheran Disaster Response partner, ATSWA Trust, and supported by donors such as you. Priyadharshini attended sessions where she learned how to stay safe during storms, how to store important things, and how to protect herself and her family during heavy rains and waterlogging. She says the sessions helped her “reduce fear and [know] how to stay calm and think properly during a crisis.”

Priyadharshini also received a disaster safety kit with a flashlight, whistle, first aid kit and other



Lutheran Disaster Response shares hope, healing and renewal with people in the United States and around the world whose lives have been disrupted by disasters. Your gifts support disaster survivors as they work to rebuild.



*Women at a leadership workshop discuss women's rights and roles and the importance of participating in community decision-making.*

important items. Now, she says, her whole family knows where the kit is kept and how to use it during an emergency.

The ATSWA Trust program makes the community more resilient in other ways too, such as installing an early warning system for storms. When the siren was first sounded as part of a test, Priyadharshini says, many of her classmates didn't know what it was or what to do. She was proud to be able to explain it to them. "I felt happy that I could help them and that I was part of something important for our safety," she says.

The rest of Priyadharshini's family is getting involved in the disaster preparedness program too. Her mother attended a women's leadership workshop, where she learned about confidence, decision-making and the importance of women participating in the community. Priyadharshini's father learned about safe evacuation routes, hazard areas and how to prepare the house before storms. Now, he's sharing that knowledge with his neighbors, helping them to feel safer as well.

Because of your gifts, Priyadharshini says, "I am no longer afraid during rainy times because I know what to do." And beyond helping her and her neighbors cope with the storms they've already lived through, you are with them as they begin to look ahead.

Priyadharshini's Adolescent Resilience Group participated in a tree drive, where they planted saplings to make their village greener and safer from soil erosion and flooding. With your support, they will be able to watch the trees grow, looking toward the future not with fear but with hope.

**"I am no longer afraid during rainy times because I know what to do."**

**—C. Priyadharshini**

*C. Priyadharshini (center) receives a disaster safety kit for her family's home.*

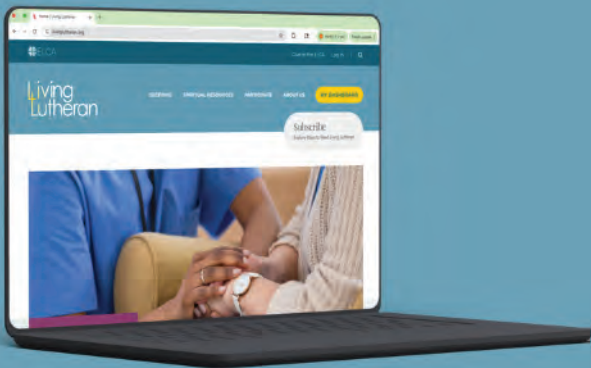


# Lifelines

Spring 2026

For supporters of ELCA World Hunger and  
Lutheran Disaster Response  
ELCA.org/hunger | ELCA.org/disaster

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631-4101



## OUR FREE GIFT TO YOU!

The new **LivingLutheran.org**  
is now live.

Set up a free digital membership and find even more stories  
about the work of our church around the world.  
You'll also have access to exclusive content, your own  
personalized dashboard and more.

Living  
Lutheran

### HOW TO GIVE

#### Online

ELCA.org/GiveWH  
ELCA.org/GiveLDR

#### Phone

800-638-3522

#### Mail

Make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger"  
or "Lutheran Disaster Response" and mail to:

ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009