

What is “A Month of Pot Lucks to End World Hunger”?

Hunger is a global issue and one that doesn't always get the attention it needs. In fact if hunger were a focal problem in our world, we could eliminate hunger all together. But the reality is that hunger is still an enormous problem in our world. Just check out a few facts about hunger:

- 1.02 billion people are hungry in a global population of 6.7 billion
- 1.4 billion people lived below the international poverty line on less than \$1.25/day (in 2005)
- 10 million children under age 5 die every year, over half die as a result of hunger-related causes
 - 1 in 7 people is hungry (according to: **ELCA World Hunger**)
- 3.575 million people die each year due to water-related disease (according to: www.water.org)
- 35.5 million people (including 12.6 million children) in the United States experience hunger or the risk of hunger
 - almost 16,000 children die every day due to hunger-related causes (1 child every 5 seconds)
- \$13 billion dollars – amount the United Nations Development Program estimates it would cost annual to meet the nutritional needs of the world's poorest people

*(all statistics come from **Bread for the World** – unless otherwise indicated)*

So what can we do? How about hosting a potluck dinner? That's right, one way to put a dent in the hunger problem in this world is to host a potluck dinner during the month of June as a part of the 2nd Annual Month of Potlucks to End World Hunger. This idea was developed by Lutheran Pastors Kim Conway and Mike Poole as a grassroots effort to raise awareness and money regarding the hunger crisis in our world.

The goal continues to be an ambitious one, but we are confident that our Lutheran sisters and brothers, and many friends in the United States and the world are ready to do what we can to eliminate a crisis that doesn't need to exist. We are asking congregations/communities to sign up to host a potluck during the month of June, as a first step in this endeavor together. During these potlucks there will be time for fellowship, education around the issue of hunger, and a time for advocacy both locally with area hunger agencies/ministries, and globally through an offering collected to support **ELCA World Hunger**.

A Pot Luck for World Hunger includes a pot luck (of course), hopefully some sort of education/discussion/presentation about hunger in the world and taking an offering for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Our Delaware Maryland Synod has taken on the goal of having at least one congregation hosting a pot luck for world hunger each night in the month of June (If we have 100 congregations doing one on June 15th that will be OK as well!) Our Synod Assembly "Take Your Neighbor in Need to Lunch" effort will count as our June 11th Pot Luck

So will you join us? If so please sign up to be a part of our Synod Assembly effort. You can also invite/encourage your congregation to host a pot luck. For further information (including hunger statistics, DVDs, and a press release) and how to report following your event please go to www.amonthofpotlucks.org Can't host a potluck in June? That's okay, we won't be picky, just contact us and let us know when you will be hosting your event.

And one more thing – word of mouth is the way this project started and it continues to be the way we will grow. So why not help out by encouraging a colleague, friend, or local community in your area to participate as well. Together we can end hunger, one potluck at a time!