

## 2016 Elections

# Bread for the World Members Urge Candidates to Address Hunger

In 2014, before the mid-term elections for Congress, a group of Bread for the World members in Birmingham, Alabama, succeeded in meeting with both candidates for Alabama's 6th Congressional District. The Bread team asked the candidates what they would do, if elected, to end hunger and poverty.

Now that group has produced a video to help other Bread members across the country meet with congressional candidates for the 2016 elections. Visit [www.bread.org/alabama](http://www.bread.org/alabama) to view the video.

LaVida Davis, Bread for the World's director of organizing, commented,

"We are very excited about this video, and we are confident it will inspire others to engage candidates in other parts of the country as part of our bipartisan I Vote to End Hunger campaign this election cycle."

Suzanne Martin, one of Bread for the World's members in Birmingham, talked about the process of getting the meetings before the election, the follow-up after the election, and how those meetings help to build a relationship with elected Republican Congressman Gary Palmer. "With the assistance of Bread staff, we were able to establish a meaningful relationship with our congressman, one we definitely intend

to build on in the future."

Bread for the World members are now engaging in similar meetings with congressional candidates in more than 10 states.

Bread for the World has also been conducting an online campaign to encourage voters to express their desire to have the presidential and congressional candidates address issues of hunger and poverty.

The goal of Bread for the World's elections work is that, when the new president and the next Congress take office in 2017, they will make ending hunger a national priority and will put our nation and the world on track to end hunger by 2030.

You can help achieve this goal by meeting with candidates and asking them the following questions:

1. If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the U.S. and worldwide?
2. Will you publicize your position on hunger, poverty, and opportunity on your website and in social media?
3. Will you meet with us again within the first 30 days of taking office?



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In this photo from 2014, Mark Lester (left), then candidate for Congress meets with Bread for the World members Vic Adamo, Kristin Farmer, Suzanne Martin, and Ed Wilson. These Birmingham residents asked Lester about his views on hunger and poverty. As part of Bread for the World's work for the 2016 elections, a video about the Birmingham experience can now be found at [www.bread.org/alabama](http://www.bread.org/alabama).

## ACT NOW!

To report on what happened in your meetings with candidates and to learn more about how you can take part in Bread for the World's election efforts, visit [www.bread.org/vote](http://www.bread.org/vote) or email [election@bread.org](mailto:election@bread.org).

October 16, 2016

# Churches Make Plans for Bread for the World Sunday

**O**n October 16 or another Sunday this fall, thousands of churches across the country will lift up God's vision of a world without hunger. Here is how some churches connect the day with their larger ministry of responding to those in need.

- **Christ Lutheran** is a small church in one of Ohio's poorest counties. Poverty and hunger are big topics in **Athens, Ohio**. That's why the church's food pantry and the CROP Walk are important to the congregation. But Rev. Lynn Miller sees the church's involvement in Bread for the World as different. "Bread for the World Sunday gives us the opportunity to teach the importance of advocacy and its impact," she says. "The church is a member of Bread for the World, but I encourage Christ Lutheran households to join, too."

On Bread for the World Sunday, everything at Christ Lutheran—including the kids' program—focuses on hunger in God's world and how parishioners can help through advocacy. "In Athens, we're blessed with incredible local sources of fresh bread," Miller says. "So we have all sorts of breads and rolls stacked high on the altar and in baskets below the altar."

"Everyone knows it's Bread for the World Sunday," Miller says. "They write a check that will go to Bread for the World. Then after the service, they choose a loaf or a bag of rolls."

- Rick Lorenz, a long-time member of **Faith United Church of Christ in Richmond Heights, Ohio**, recalls, "Pat Bacon introduced me to Bread for the World, and I fell in love." Now Lorenz leads Offering of Letters activities each spring and helps the congregation mark Bread for the World Sunday in October.

The congregation provides hungry people with meals through its Loaves and Fishes Ministry. But Bread for the World's citizen advocacy model provides a "multiplier effect." This inspired Lorenz to participate in two of Bread for the World's annual Lobby Days in Washington, D.C., and return home to inspire others at Faith to get involved.

"On Bread for the World Sunday, it's a powerful thing that people all over the world are thinking and praying for this one thing—an end to hunger—at once," Lorenz says.

- "You can't do much of anything when you have nothing to eat," says Rev. Jerry Hill of **Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville, S.C.** "More than 836 million people worldwide live in extreme poverty, surviving many days on as little as a third of a cup of simple carbs like rice," he continues. "Yet with a large and relatively wealthy congregation, it can still be a challenge to get traction around hunger awareness."

"We want to spur people to walk in the shoes of hungry people, to feel their hunger," says Hill. For the entire month of October this year, church members are being invited to walk in solidarity with hungry and poor people. "We'll reach out in sermons and bulletin articles all month. We'll kick off October 2 by hosting a Rice Fast—a meal consisting of a third of a cup of rice. During the evening, we'll share our hunger experience, and write our Congressmen to encourage funding to feed all God's children."

Hill concludes, "We observe Bread for the World Sunday because we want people to know we can make a big difference by going up the 'food chain' and pressing our elected officials to end hunger."

- For 39 years, John Lally has led the Offering of Letters at **Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.** For Bread for the World Sunday, all of those who attend one of the parish's five weekly masses—including the Spanish-language mass—will receive Bread's informational flier and a contribution envelope in the church bulletin.

Lally has quadrupled the impact of his efforts on behalf of Bread for the World by forging a partnership with four nearby churches. He's also placed op-eds and letters in the local newspaper.

At 80 years old, Lally has started training his replacement for organizing Bread for the World activities at Holy Name of Mary. His successor is a youngster of 60.

"Activism is a long distance run," Lally notes. "Bread for the World is based on Christ's message," he adds. "It is important to support hunger-related charities with financial support. But the way Bread for the World inspires us to advocate for legislative change? This is what makes progress happen."

For more information about Bread for the World Sunday and materials to order or download, visit [www.bread.org/sunday](http://www.bread.org/sunday).



## Severe Drought in Africa

# Thanks to You, Food Reaches Drought Victims and Farmers Grow Climate-Resilient Crops

Immense challenges face people in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. They are suffering from the worst drought in 50 years. Crops are withering, and livestock are dying at alarming rates. Before the drought hit, Ethiopia had made great strides in agricultural productivity. But now agriculture has been hit hard, and some areas have seen food production fall by 50 percent.

With your financial support and your advocacy with Congress, you and other Bread for the World members have helped make it possible for the U.S. government and other countries to respond to this hunger crisis in Africa.

The recent passage of the bipartisan Global Food Security Act will be especially helpful. The act will sustain and strengthen development efforts that help smallholder farmers like those in Ethiopia. These farmers will receive training and tools for planting drought-resistant crops. More diverse and nutritious foods will also be encouraged, which will help improve nutrition for mothers and children—the ones most vulnerable during times of drought and famine.

Jordan Teague, Bread for the World's international policy analyst, notes, "Because of the faithful advocacy of Bread for the World members, the Global Food



Security Act makes sure the good work of Feed the Future is continued, including in drought-stricken and vulnerable areas like Ethiopia. Now communities and farmers will be better able to build their own resilience to disasters such as drought."



On August 20, to draw attention to the need for immigration reform, 170 people began an 11-day, 150-mile walk from the international border between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego to Los Angeles, Calif. Among the walkers were Bishop Jose Garcia (far left), Bread for the World's director of church relations. He was joined by four other staff members (left to right): Esteban Garcia, Denise Lopez, David Gist, and Marco Grimaldo. In an interview with CNN, Bishop Garcia noted, "Thirty-four percent of U.S.-born children of undocumented parents in the United States struggle with hunger."

# Send Bread for the World Christmas Cards and Help End Hunger

When you send Bread for the World Christmas cards to your family and friends, you will help create hope and opportunity for hungry people. Proceeds from the sale of these cards support efforts to urge our nation's decision makers to change the policies and conditions

that allow hunger to persist in our own country and abroad.

The 2016 card features a photo of an Afghan girl and her sibling. Inside is a Scripture passage—Isaiah 35:10—and the greeting “May the Prince of Peace, who is born among us this Christmas, give you peace and joy in the new year.”

Ten cards and envelopes are only \$15 (includes shipping). Additional card designs, including one without a religious greeting, are also available. View the cards and place your order today by visiting [www.bread.org/cards](http://www.bread.org/cards) or by calling 800-822-7323. The deadline for ordering cards is December 9.



## Bread for the World Sunday There's Still Time to Order Resources

You can still order bulletin inserts—along with a large poster, a new responsive prayer, and Scripture studies—to help your church to celebrate Bread for the World Sunday on October 16—or another Sunday in the fall. Rev. Beth Bostrom, a United Methodist pastor in Florida and a member of Bread for the World's board of directors, has written an inspiring reflection on Luke 18:1-8. Rev. Dr. Chris Repp, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Champaign, Illinois, has prepared a new litany and other prayers for the day.

Dr. Hosffman Ospino, who teaches theology at Boston College,

has written a Spanish-language study of Luke 18:1-8 as well as a litany in Spanish. The bulletin inserts are also available in Spanish.

To view, download, and order resources, visit [www.bread.org/sunday](http://www.bread.org/sunday) or call 800-822-7323.

Pray always and do not lose heart...  
And will not God grant justice  
to His chosen ones who cry to Him  
day and night?  
— Luke 18:1b, 7a

Today, our church joins thousands of other churches across the country in celebrating Bread for the World Sunday. In our worship, we lift up our prayers for those who struggle with hunger—and rededicate ourselves to efforts that help end hunger.

Our prayers and our actions are especially urgent at this time. Severe drought and civil strife have caused acute malnutrition in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria, and other parts of the world. Poverty and violence have pushed many in Latin America to leave their homes and risk everything to escape. Through our involvement in Bread for the World, we are advocating for humanitarian assistance and long-term solutions to hunger.

In the United States, the fall elections will bring about historic changes. In the weeks and months ahead, Congress and the newly elected president will be making decisions that will affect the lives of millions of hungry people in our own country and abroad.

Putting our faith in God who listens to our cries for help (Luke 18:7), we renew our prayers for all those who suffer from need or injustice. We also pray that our newly elected leaders will govern with wisdom, encourage healing, and work for a future in which all have an opportunity to prosper.

Our faith is in Christ, who makes all things new, and we place our hope in God's vision of a world without hunger.

## WHAT'S ONLINE?

### Videos by Faith Leaders, Prayer Challenge, and More ...

- Several times a week, an interesting story or inspiring commentary is posted on the **Bread Blog** on Bread for the World's website. A special blog series is being posted to provide updates about Bread for the World's elections work. To read these and more blog posts, visit [www.bread.org/blog](http://www.bread.org/blog).
- In a brief video series hosted by Bread for the World, prominent Christian leaders speak about why their religious traditions believe ending hunger is important. Bishop Richard Pates and Jim Wallis are among the nine leaders who offer compelling statements. To view the videos, visit [www.bread.org/faithtoendhunger](http://www.bread.org/faithtoendhunger).
- Bread for the World and Guideposts magazine are collaborating in calling for a week of prayer for an end to hunger, beginning the week of October 16 (World Food Day). To find out how you can participate, visit [www.bread.org/prayer](http://www.bread.org/prayer).
- **Fresh Bread** provides an update on happenings in Congress with suggestions about actions you can take. To receive this weekly newsletter (when Congress is in session), sent by email, subscribe at [www.bread.org/freshbread](http://www.bread.org/freshbread).



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