

Dear Congregational Leader,

One in four children in Pennsylvania lives in food insecure households. Food insecurity is often caused by a loss of income, sudden illness, mounting medical bills or increasing child care expenses, which can mean having to decide whether to pay the rent or buy food for the week.

According to a 2014 Gallup survey, one in six Americans said they could not afford food at times within the past year. Statistics from the ELCA World Hunger Appeal reports that 868 million people in our world are hungry; 1.2 billion live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 a day; and 49 million people in the United States—one out of every six people—including 16 million children experience hunger or the risk of hunger.

In August 2014, the SEPA Synod Hunger Ministry Team was formed, comprised of clergy and lay people from across the synodical territory, to focus on hunger and food insecurity issues. The Hunger Team's mission is to **educate congregations about hunger; initiate, support and enhance hunger ministries, and advocate together for God's promised justice.** To deliver its mission, the Hunger Ministry Team focuses on four objectives:

Best Practices. The Hunger Ministry Team Ministry identifies and shares best practices and resources that are available to congregations that wish to begin or enhance its hunger ministry within the SEPA Synodical region.

Hunger Grants. The Hunger Ministry Team reviews Domestic Hunger Grant applications on behalf of the SEPA Synod. We encourage more congregations to apply for these grants.

Advocacy. The Hunger Ministry Team provides materials and training to equip congregations to lobby elected public officials and governmental agencies for fair laws and just public policies to help people to help themselves resolve their food security issues.

Every congregation is uniquely gifted and called to respond to the hunger needs of their communities and neighbors as an expression of Christ's abundant love. We are writing to invite your congregation to join in helping to deliver God's blessings to those in need of food. Become a **SEPA Synod Hunger Ministry Coordinator** for your congregation and access a wide array of resources and tools that best suit your congregation and local community, and share your program successes.

Please return the attached **“SEPA Synod Hunger Ministry Coordinator”** form at your earliest convenience to: Annette Sample P. O. Box 42362, Philadelphia, PA 19101-2362. Also, you may contact me @ Phone 215-849-2829 or sample.annette@gmail.com.

God’s blessings and Peace to you,

Sincerely,

Annette Sample
SEPA Synod Hunger Ministry Team