



Southwestern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends at the Food Shelves and Pantries across Southwestern Minnesota,

We thank God for you and for the work you, your staff and volunteers do to provide healthy, nutritious food at no cost to the estimated 76,300 hungry people in our part of the state.

During the month of March, many individuals and congregations from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) participated in the Minnesota Food Share campaign. We hope our donations of non-perishable food and cash helped stock your shelves so that this important work can continue.

Now, we want to do more. On June 12, 2015, we are planning to host a food packing event in St. Peter. We are partnering with Outreach, Inc., an organization based in Union, Iowa, which has extensive experience in packing meals for domestic (i.e. United States) distribution. Volunteers from our synod will be packing two types of meals: (1) macaroni and cheese and (2) red beans and rice. The meals are packed in 3-ply plastic bags, vacuum-sealed, and stamped with lot numbers and expiration dates. The bags are then packed in cardboard boxes, with each box holding 36 bags or 216 meals. Each box weighs 33 pounds and is 10 x 12 x 14 inches in dimension. We expect to package between 83,000-100,000 meals in the four hour event (380-465 boxes). These meals have an indefinite shelf life, but retain maximum nutritional value when used within two years. When cooked with the appropriate amount of water, each bag contains six servings of good tasting, vitamin enriched food. Meals are microwavable.

Of course, all this is great and wonderful, but our labor is in vain if we cannot get these meals to the people who really need them. This is where you come in! We would like to share some of these meals with every food shelf or pantry in our synod (at no cost) so that they can be distributed to the hungry. In order for volunteers to bring them to your doorstep between June 14 and June 18, we will need the following information from you:

Name of Food Shelf _____
Contact Name and Phone Number _____
Street Address _____
City/Zip code _____

What type of meals would you like and how many? (you can choose one or both meals)

_____ macaroni and cheese _____ # of bags OR _____ # of boxes (36 bags/box)

_____ red beans and rice _____ # of bags OR _____ # of boxes (36 bags/box)

Best day(s)/time(s) for delivery: _____ am _____ pm
Would you like to be notified before meals are delivered? _____ Yes _____ Not necessary

If we get requests for more meals than are packed, distribution will be proportionate to the request.
DEADLINE FOR REQUESTS is June 1, 2015

You may register for meals and provide this information to us in one of two ways:

- 1) Visit our SW MN Synod website: www.swmnelca.org and fill out the online form under “Quick Links” at the bottom right, titled “Hunger Event.”
- 2) Complete the form on the bottom of the first page and send it back via snail mail or email attachment to: Ann Hanson, PO Box 274, Kerkhoven, MN 56252 or ahanson51@charter.net
- 3) If you have further questions please contact:
Ann Hanson ahanson51@charter.net or 320-894-4464
Pastor Marlaine Doidge pastormdoidge@gmail.com or 320-510-0223

Again, thank you for the work you are doing to feed the hungry. We look forward to working with you on this project and pray that these meals will go a long ways toward ending hunger in southwestern Minnesota.

Pastor Marlaine R. Doidge
On behalf of the Serving in God’s World Board
Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA