

## Welcome to "God's New Creation,"

ELCA World Hunger's Vacation Bible School program for 2023!

Farming communities around the world are important when it comes to ending hunger. They provide the world's food, but often farmers, especially smallholder farmers, are at high risk for hunger themselves. Working with farmers to improve harvests, save money and prepare for the future can be big steps toward ending hunger around the world. This is why ELCA World Hunger works through congregations, partners and companion churches to accompany farmers as they innovate and adapt in creative, effective ways.

"God's New Creation" is about this work together. Our focus verse for this program is: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." —Isaiah 11:6

In the sessions and activities, your group will have the chance to learn about an important part of our work: animals! By helping farmers access animals and learn new ways to care for them, we can take an effective, sustainable step toward ending hunger. For families living in poverty or hunger, eggs from chickens, milk from goats or meat from pigs can provide important nutrition and money for other needs. In some projects we have supported, farmers have even used cows as collateral to get loans for education or new businesses!

Each day of "God's New Creation" offers large- and small-group activities, crafts, games, snacks and more. These are designed to be adaptable, so you can adjust the program to meet your needs.

We are also excited to share original music for this year's VBS! You can find recordings and music sheets at www.elca.org/hunger/resources#VBS.

Lastly, THANK YOU to the many leaders, children, congregations and groups that have shared gifts with ELCA World Hunger. Your generosity makes this Vacation Bible School program possible. As you use "God's New Creation," please prayerfully consider encouraging your group to support our work together through ELCA World Hunger.

In Christ,

**Ryan P. Cumming** 

Program Director, Hunger Education ELCA World Hunger

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