

Hunger Task Force Report 2023

Members of the SEMI Synod Hunger Task Force include: Co-Chair Rev. Sara Freudenburg, Co-Chair Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants, Denise Benjamin, Rev. Diane Greble, Rev. Ms. Doris Haskins, LLM Christine Ritter, Wesley Davis, Seminarian Alysa Offman, and LLM Robin McCants of Synod Staff.

The Hunger Task Force continues its work of supporting our synod's hunger ministries. Continuing the work we began in 2021, we are keeping our database of SEMI Synod hunger ministries up to date and now have a presence on [Southeast Michigan Synod Justice Ministries \(semisynodjustice.com\)](https://semisynodjustice.com). This database and website help our team relay opportunities such as the Hunger Leaders Gathering and various grant opportunities to leaders in our congregations.

Members of this task force serve as grant reviewers for local applicants of the ELCA's Domestic Hunger Grant process. Our team visited the grant sites and made recommendations to the ELCA. We also met with a new ELCA World Hunger leader to help us think about diversifying our team. Grants from past years include:

- 2021 Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI
- 2023 FedUp Ministries, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2023 Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES), Detroit, MI

We are intentional to stay connected to the staff of the ELCA Domestic & World Hunger program areas. We applied for an ELCA Hunger Grant in 2021 and received \$3000. We used the funds to host the Justice Summit event in March of 2023 in order to provide Justice Education for our synod which included addressing hunger. Fed-Up ministries presented at one session and Detroit Food Policy Council presented at the other.

Our synodically authorized worshiping community, FedUp Ministries, continues to serve those facing food insecurity. FedUp serves good, healthy, food-truck style food with dignity to communities who have been economically oppressed and exploited in Southeast Michigan. They have added a shower truck to their ministry.

Respectfully Submitted by Pastor Sara Freudenburg, Hunger Task Force Co-Chair