October 15, 2017 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost (A): For Such a Time as This: Homelessness

The Episcopal Church and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continue our united call to Pray, Fast, and Act in support of good policies that provide opportunities for and respect the dignity of people struggling with poverty. As the seasons transition and the days become colder, we answer the call this month by supporting action for people facing homelessness, unaffordable heating utility bills, and extreme housing insecurity.

On October 21, join the EPPN and the presiding bishops of The Episcopal Church and the ELCA as we:

**PRAY** for our nation’s elected leaders to stand with those who struggle to secure safe and affordable shelter.

“God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you those who are homeless and cold especially in this bitter weather. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.” – *For the Cold and Homeless, from the Church of England*

**FAST** to call attention in our own minds and actions human plight that eviction, poverty, and homelessness create.

Share on social media using #PrayFastAct and @TheEPPN. On the 21st, post a picture of a dinner place setting with the reason you are fasting this month. We fast on this day in solidarity with people who must choose between paying their utility and housing bills and buying food for their family. Consider participating in an electricity or heating fast by turning it off in your home for the day.

**ACT** by urging our elected leaders to support strong policy solutions that address affordable housing needs and homelessness.

Prepare yourself for action on the 21st of October by read the Office of Government Relations’ one-pager on advocacy and homelessness at [http://bit.ly/FSAToctober](http://bit.ly/FSAToctober). You can also read up on Episcopalians’ commitment to provide affordable housing for the poor, address domestic poverty, and support care and fellowship for veterans. Look out for the #PrayFastAct action alert on Friday, October 21, and join us as we pray, fast, and advocate together.