

**Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey**  
**Weekly Witness | October 27, 2017**

*"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32*

Free from sin, Jesus explained when they pressed him. Free from imprisonment within the narrow walls of our own self-interest. Free from enslavement by our own shabbiest instincts, deceits, and self-deceptions. Freedom not from responsibility, but for it. Escape not from reality, but into it; into the pain and joy of human community with all of its imperfections.

The best moments we have are those moments when for a little while, it is possible to escape the squirrel cage of being "me"; into the landscape of being us, into worship as community, into the best of our history. (Adapted from [Frederick Buechner, Wishful Thinking](#))

We are free to love others, to advocate with others for justice, and to move into the brokenness of the world by engaging with the hard issues.

This week the [Anti-Hunger Advocates](#) rolled out an [advocacy effort](#) sharing the need for [robust SNAP funding](#). The Agricultural Act (Farm Bill), which was passed in 2014, cut SNAP for more than two million low-income families in America and a resolution passed by the House Budget Committee could further reduce SNAP funding by an additional \$125 billion over the next ten years. This is an extremely important issue for our neighbors in New Jersey.

"New Jersey is in a hunger crisis," Adele LaTourette, director of the New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition, said. "There are tens of millions of people living at or below poverty level."

If approved, the House Budget Committee's resolution will change SNAP to become a block grant in 2021, eliminating millions of families from eligibility for food assistance. With approximately 900,000 New Jersey residents relying on SNAP benefits, these cuts will put more of a burden on children, the disabled, and working families trying to eat. According to Food Bank of South Jersey CEO Val Treore, cuts will also further impact the food pantries that attempt to fill the gap left when SNAP still doesn't make ends meet.

On this #Reformation500 weekend, add [advocacy](#) in favor of feeding all of God's people to your celebrations. Join #SNAPFeedsNJ by taking action in one of [their suggested ways](#), or by getting creative! Host an event to share the [information](#) about these SNAP cuts. Decorate [paper plates](#) in your Sunday School classes or Bible studies, with a message to our congressional delegation that your church says "No cuts. No caps." Spend Reformation Day calling your representatives (a prompt can be found [here](#)).

On this anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded that we are freed and forgiven by God's grace to live for others. What a better way to share that love than by ensuring that all of our neighbors will be fed.