

## ***“Hope Springs Eternal”***

Join the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) in feeding our hungry brothers and sisters as you feed your spirit during the Lenten season with ***“Hope Springs Eternal”***. This devotional booklet contains daily scripture readings, reflections, and prayers written for SoSA by people of faith, laypersons, missionaries, and pastors across the United States and beyond. Set aside a few minutes each day from Ash Wednesday (February 14) to Easter (March 31) as a spiritual discipline, to focus throughout Lent on your own season of life with ***“Hope Springs Eternal”***.

This would be a perfect time, as part of your Lenten spiritual discipline, to commit to making a financial contribution to SoSA. Perhaps you will consider \$1 a day, or your pocket change every day at day’s end. You might give an amount equivalent to what you spend for fresh fruits and vegetables each week or a few cents per meal. Some families even choose to tithe their food budget throughout the season. Your gift, in any amount, will provide a healthy meal to hungry people at a cost of just over 15¢ per meal.

### **Promote the Society of St. Andrew’s Lenten Devotions and Giving Program in Your Congregation**

**Order one booklet for each participating household.** Paper-saving alternatives include daily e-devotions (emailed devotions) and e-books, available at *EndHunger.org/Lent*.

**Request free coin banks** for each household, if you wish to use them. (By ordering only the quantity of materials you need, you will help keep SoSA’s overhead low and ensure that your congregation’s gifts go directly to putting nutritious food on the tables of those who need it most!)

**Use the bulletin insert sheet and weekly announcements** (enclosed) to keep the Devotions and Giving Program in front of your congregation throughout the weeks of Lent.

**Use the pew envelopes, inserted with each bulletin** (enclosed) to allow your congregation to put their donation to the Society of St. Andrew in the envelope and put it in the offering plate. Your church could then send those checks and envelopes to SoSA.

**Put a “stamp of approval” on the program** by seeking the support of your pastor, missions committee, and church board. Encourage your pastor to participate personally and to be “front and center” recommending the program to the congregation.

**Receive gifts generated** through SoSA’s Lenten Devotions and Giving Program on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, or the Sunday following Easter. Send a single check for the total amount contributed, made out to Society of St. Andrew, to the address below, noting “Lenten offerings” on the memo line.

### **Good Friday Fast**

Many congregations, house churches, and small groups wish to add an additional spiritual discipline during Holy Week by participating in a **Good Friday Fast**. Online only this year, SoSA makes available a booklet of reflections and prayers to accompany a 24-48 hour period of purposeful abstention from food between Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. The physical hunger participants experience during their fast is a powerful reminder of the 40 million Americans and nearly 1 billion people throughout the world who live with hunger daily. Download your copy of the Good Friday Fast booklet online at [endhunger.org](http://endhunger.org)

## **Society of St. Andrew**

GLEANNING AMERICA’S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA’S HUNGRY

# Newsletter / Social Media / Bulletin Announcements

## Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotions & Giving Program

**Ash Wednesday, February 14.** The ashes placed on our foreheads this day remind us that our lives are brief, and that all we are and all we have come from God, our Creator. Begin your Lenten time of daily reading, reflection, prayer, and giving today by reading Love and Ashes in *“Hope Springs Eternal”*, the devotional booklet prepared for you by the Society of St. Andrew, a nationwide ministry focused on feeding spiritual and physical hunger.

**Sunday, February 18.** The season of Lent is a time of self-examination and sacrifice. The various ways Christians observe Lent are as diverse as our personalities! We can sacrifice to get closer to God or we can take on something. In today’s devotional *A Living Hope*, we are reminded that besides our eternal hope, we are called to share the living hope with others.

**Sunday, February 25.** In *“Hope Springs Eternal”*, our Lenten devotional booklet from Society of St. Andrew, today’s writer of *Who’s in Charge*, reminds us to practice self-examination and to examine our motives. Are we letting the Holy Spirit control our lives and actions? How can giving up control help heal a hungry, hurt and broken world? A donation of any amount to the Society of St. Andrew is a sacrifice that helps fill those broken hearts with hope, and empty tummies with a nutritious meal.

**Sunday, March 3.** In today’s devotion in *“Hope Springs Eternal”*, *Flower of Hope*, the writer reminds us when all seems lost and broken, your love breaks through like a bold flower from the hard winter ground. The Society of St. Andrew challenges us to remember our desperate 40 million children and adults here in the United States who suffer loss from hunger and struggle to put enough food on the table each day. Does your daily spiritual focus this season include giving? Every \$3.00 you set aside for Society of St. Andrew will put 26 healthy meals on the plates of those who need it most, giving both you and them a blessing!

**Sunday, March 10.** Today’s devotional writer in Society of St. Andrew’s Lenten devotional, *“Hope Springs Eternal”*, writes *Hope and the Christmas Cactus*, reminding us to persevere, never give up even when all seems lost. Will you help others persevere today by giving to the Society of St. Andrew, a nationwide ministry with a vision to end physical hunger? Every \$3 provides 26 meals of nutritious, fresh food for the hungry!

**Sunday, March 17.** Today’s devotion in *“Hope Springs Eternal”* is *Hope Beyond the Door*. The author uses a scene out of the Wizard of Oz to describe the hope we have in Jesus. By feeding hungry brothers, sisters and children with your donations to the Society of St. Andrew, you are participants and witnesses to that hope! During your devotional time this week, ask God to remind us to not grow weary in doing what is right – helping brothers and sisters in the United States and around the world have enough to eat.

**Palm Sunday, March 24.** Today’s devotion is titled *Is Hope a Feeling or a Virtue?* The author writes reminds us that our hope is a “rock hard certainty built on Christ” and challenges us as a community to think about hope. As you read and pray through this week’s devotions in *“Hope Springs Eternal”* remember you are part of a community on a journey to the cross during Lent with the Society of St. Andrew. Your support helps hungry families on the margins be more in control of their food insecurity! Remember those families for whom hunger issues are not yet resolved, still a daily reality, and in desperate need of hope.

**Easter Sunday, March 31.** Happy Easter! Today’s devotion in *“Hope Springs Eternal”* is titled *Waiting Quietly in Hope*. The author describes praying and waiting in the dark before sunrise, like an Easter morning sunrise service, and the “morsels of hope” it gives her throughout the day. Will you share gifts or “morsels of hope” with other people in need? Your generous donations to the Society of St. Andrew are these gifts! Please make healthy food possible for our hungry brothers and sisters because Jesus is alive and lives in you! **Alleluia! He is Risen!**