

# BRING YOUR CONGREGATION TOGETHER THIS ADVENT

HERE ARE SOME FUN WAYS TO GET STARTED:



## DO SOMETHING “SWEET” FOR OTHERS

Organize a bake sale or coffee hour fundraiser after worship service one Sunday. Send items from the catalog that help vulnerable communities improve their food supply and foster resilience.



## HOST A POPCORN AND MOVIE NIGHT

Invite friends and family to a popcorn and movie night. You can show a family-friendly Christmas film and ask people to make a minimum donation to attend.



## GET CRAFTY

Have the Sunday school kids create a large Christmas card featuring images from the *Gifts for Life* catalog—and ask parishioners to sign it after purchasing a gift.



## WRAP A GIFT, SEND A GIFT

Offer a gift-wrapping service one Advent Sunday in exchange for donations to purchase a Christmas gift package through *Gifts for Life*.

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Everyone at Episcopal Relief & Development would love to know how your congregation helped bring joy and lasting change to communities worldwide. Once you've completed your *Gifts for Life* fundraiser, share your story: [info@episcopalrelief.org](mailto:info@episcopalrelief.org)

**FOR MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:**  
[episcopalrelief.org/advent](https://episcopalrelief.org/advent)



# PUTTING THEIR FAITH IN ACTION:



## FEATURED CONGREGATION *Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Tomball, TX*

At the beginning of this year, Annalisa Taylor and Elizabeth Honeycutt of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church were brainstorming how their Sunday School classes could create a meaningful Lent.

In addition to having the children bring in canned goods for a local food pantry, they asked them to take on chores to raise money for the *Gifts for Life* program.

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Honeycutt decorated glass jars to use as “mite jars” for the children to take home at the beginning of Lent—and right away, the children became personally invested in their fundraising!

Says Ms. Honeycutt, “They told us each week during Sunday School about the chores they had taken on, which ranged from emptying the dishwasher and clearing the table of dishes to picking weeds...”

After the first three Sundays of Easter, the jars were heavy with coins and dollar bills—but most importantly, filled with love from the youngest church members!

In total, the children raised \$365 during Lent and wanted to share that with other children and families. They printed and mounted images of goats, cows, pigs and flocks of chickens from the *Gifts for Life* catalog, and posed with them for photos.