

## Bread for the World “Offering of Letters” 2023

- Worship on Sunday, June 25 included a report from Cathy and Felipe Salinas and Caly Fernandez about Bread for the World’s recent advocacy event in Washington D.C. They led the congregation in an “Offering of Letters” project to contact elected officials about hunger issues, particularly with regard to the Farm Bill being developed in this Congressional session. The Valley’s new Congresswoman, Monica De La Cruz, has been assigned to the Agriculture Committee, so she is an effective official to contact. Here is some helpful information:
  - **Writing Letters to Members of Congress:** An effective letter contains these three essential elements:
    1. **State something specific.** *The farm bill is our nation’s most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad.*
    2. **Name the action.** *As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems. Specifically, I ask you to:*
      - *Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).*
      - *Cosponsor the Food Date Labeling Act (H.R. 3159 / S. 1484).*
      - *Reauthorize Food for Peace funding at no less than \$2.5 billion annually and allow additional flexibility.*
    3. **Give a reason.**
      - State in your own words why these actions are important to you.  
Example: *“As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty – no matter where they live.”*

**Send your letter to:**

Rep. Monica de la Cruz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator John Cornyn  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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