



## Clergy of All Faiths to Give Sermons on Food Waste

*September 8-10, 2017*

If you realized that half of the money your family earned every month was thrown away – not spent frivolously but actually thrown away into the trash - you'd be furious. Yet that is what we do with food.

Our faith teaches us that no one should be hungry and that we are supposed to help those who are. Jesus taught us that when we feed a hungry person, we are feeding him. (Matthew 25:35-40)

Every week, when the plate is passed to help the needy in our community, we hope and expect that some of that will help hungry families, yet little thought is given to the fact that the nation has more than enough food to feed everyone. The real issue is that we are not using the food we already have.

Last year, an innovative nonprofit called [AmpleHarvest.org](http://AmpleHarvest.org) - best known for their work at enabling millions of gardeners to give their excess harvest to more than 8,000 food pantries - launched a pilot program to have the clergy of all faiths do sermons on food waste – all on the same weekend. The program, Food Waste Weekend, was intended to have people learn about the food they waste from their own faith perspective and explore how they could reduce it.

This year, on the weekend of Sept 8-10 in alignment with the National Day of Service and Remembrance, priests, ministers and clergy of other faiths will be speaking about what we can do to make sure that food nourishes someone instead of filling a landfill.

<http://foodwasteweekend.org/Christian> is a one-stop site for Christian clergy providing everything needed to learn about the issue including a sample sermon from the New Testament perspective, calls to action, and even a game show for the Sunday School. Other faith sermons are available too.

Not only is the issue important because of its impact on hunger and the environment, the fact that clergy of different faiths will all be giving essentially the same sermon on the same weekend is a demonstration of interfaith brotherhood.

Food Waste Weekend is an excellent opportunity to start discussing how we can care for our neighbors in need by first not wasting what God has given us.

Food Waste Weekend is an educational program of [AmpleHarvest.org](http://AmpleHarvest.org). Its resources are available for free as part of our larger effort to end food waste and hunger. More at [www.AmpleHarvest.org](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org)

**Contact information:** Gary Oppenheimer [info@AmpleHarvest.org](mailto:info@AmpleHarvest.org) @GaryOppenheimer

