

## NWPA SYNOD COMMITTEE ON WORLD HUNGER REPORT FOR 2009

The response in 2009 by the NWPA Synod was another fine witness of our support for world hunger and poverty. Last year congregations, agencies, and individuals gave a total of \$133,139.84 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. This was slightly down from our record-setting year in 2008. However, the giving per baptized member was \$5.51 which placed our synod in 13th place among the other 65 synods of the ELCA. We now have 81% of our congregations giving to the Appeal. This represents growth over the previous year.

On behalf of the committee I am most grateful to every congregation, individual, and agency who gave to the Appeal. You continue to make our synod a leader in the church's mission to feed a hungry world. Most of all you are providing the basics for those who need immediate food, shelter, and medicine, and long-term development.

During 2009 the committee led various efforts to raise funds to alleviate hunger. One of these was the Tour De Revs. On a bamboo bicycle "built for three" three ELCA pastors toured the synods of the ELCA promoting support for world hunger. They came through our synod on June 18 and stopped at Faith Lutheran Church, Harborcreek, PA for a covered dish supper. Eighty some persons showed up for the supper, see this unique bike, and hear the Revs' inspiring message to eradicate hunger. That evening we received over \$1300.00 which was split among Bethany Outreach Center, Erie, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Erie, and the ELCA Appeal.

The committee also undertook an effort to improve our networking among the congregations. On October 31 and November 1 we provided training for new congregational contact persons under the leadership of Jennifer Barger from the ELCA World Hunger office in Chicago. Over 40 persons were present for the training at Erie, Warren, and Brookville. The spirit among those who participated was most inspiring.

As we move through 2010 we are being challenged to grow in our giving. The recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have brought much devastation and loss of life. However, the ELCA is there along with its partners to offer assistance and comfort. A record number of dollars was raised through the ELCA Disaster Relief and generous matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Haiti and Chile will continue to need our help over the long run. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal will be present to help rebuild these places. I pray that you will be generous in your support of the ELCA Appeal throughout the year. Please take advantage of the "Fifth Sunday" months with your offerings. Your offerings whether large or small will go a long way to rebuild homes and lives of our brothers and sisters in Haiti, Chile, and other places that suffer from natural disasters.

In closing I want to thank the members of the Synod World Hunger Committee for their faithful support throughout the year. They are: Kathleen Schubert, Jack Donaldson, David and Gerry Miller, Ellie Pope, Christine Adams, Roxanne Morris, Karen and Kayla Allgeier, Pastor Maureen Seifried, Mary Housholder, and Barbara Carl. These folks have served with distinction. Thanks as well to Bishop Ralph Jones, Pastor Sandra Jones, and Pastor "Jake" Jacobson for their support during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor J, Kenneth Laber, Chair, NWPA Synod Committee on World Hunger