

COMMITTEE ON WORLD HUNGER

In 2010 the NWPA Synod of the ELCA reached its highest level of giving ever to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Last year we received a total of \$151,746.18 from congregations, individuals, institutions, and special offerings for ELCA World Hunger Appeal. It is also exciting to report that our synod's giving per baptized member/year was \$6.58. This is a new record as well. This places us first in among the synods in Region 8 and sixth among all the synods in the ELCA. Praise be to God! Thank you for your generosity.

Our giving is more than dollars and records in giving. The ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Relief is about helping the most hungry and poor in our global village. It's about long term-development. It's about advocating our federal and state government so they will provide for those who are marginalized in life.

This year we are asked to grow in our giving to meet the new initiative of the ELCA, The ELCA at its last Assembly took on the challenge to provide those with AIDS and HIV and Malaria. In 2008 there were 247 million cases of malaria and nearly a million deaths. This occurred for the most part in Africa where malaria accounts for 20% of all childhood deaths. Malaria is preventable and treatable. We now have the medication and the means to reduce these deaths. The ELCA has a goal of \$15 million above and beyond our giving to the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Relief.

Each day more than 6800 people become HIV positive. More than 5700 persons die from AIDS. We now have the medicine and other means to to slow the spread of this deadly disease. Through our offerings we can:

- a. Halt the spread of HIV through effective prevention, treatment, and care.
- b. Eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive.
- c. Reduce the conditions of poverty that contribute to the spread of HIV.

The ELCA's goal for this effort is \$10 million. This is part of the World Hunger budget so that a portion of every dollar we give to ELCA World Hunger will go for HIV and AIDS relief.

Please join me giving to the ELCA World Hunger Relief and to the Malaria fund. Your giving is encouraged through our "Fifth Sunday" giving or any way you choose to give your offering. It may be given to our Synod treasurer or directly to the ELCA. Again, thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

In closing I want to thank the Synod Committee on World Hunger. Christine Adams, Karen and Kayla Allgeier, Barbara Carl, Jack Donaldson, Mary Housholder, Dave and Gerry Miller, Roxanne Morris, Ellie Pope, Kathleen Schubert, Pr. Maureen Seifried, and Mary Truitt have been tireless in their efforts to educate and lift the cause in their congregations and clusters. It is a joy to be a part of this team.

I am grateful as well to Bishop Joes and his assistants, Pastor Sandra Jones and Pastor Jacobson for their continuing support.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor J. Kenneth Laber, Chair, Northwestern PA Synod Committee on World Hunger