

## **Letters from the Pastor**

November 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I read somewhere that enough food is produced in the world that every man, woman and child could consume 2,700 calories per day. Most of us eat about 2,000 or more calories a day, and obesity is a big problem in developed nations such as ours. Sometimes doctors prescribe diets of as little as 1,200 calories for weight loss. I also read that about one-quarter of the food produced worldwide is wasted. Next time you are in a restaurant notice how much food is left on the plates the busboys carry away. I have seen the incredible amounts of unsold food that stores discard. Still, especially in developing nations, but even in our own communities, people go hungry. Why?

Obviously, the problem is not one of food production. We already produce more than enough food to feed, or overfeed, every person in the world. Think of how much more food could be produced if we put our full effort into it as people did, for instance, during World War II. The hunger problem is caused by a lack of will, a lack of motivation, to feed the hungry. This is a problem both political and religious in nature. What can we do?

This month we will have several events and opportunities concerned with hunger. One, of course, is the national holiday of Thanksgiving. It is a day for us to express our gratitude to God for our blessings. Perhaps the best way for us to express our thanks is for us to share our blessings with others. An opportunity to do that will come on Sunday, November 13, which we celebrate as Harvest Sunday. On that day we will collect foodstuffs to go to our local food bank for feeding hungry people right here in our neighborhood. Every Sunday we can contribute to the World Hunger Appeal, a joint ELCA-LCMS project that addresses hunger worldwide.

Each Sunday we are fed by God. We feast on His Word and receive His Son Jesus' body and blood "with, in and under" the bread and wine of the Holy Communion, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we share those things that God has entrusted to us to feed our neighbor, let us be sure to feed their souls with Christ.

In His love and service,  
Pastor Eric