

Feed My Sheep John 21:18

A Newsletter from the Hunger Task Force of the Southern Ohio Synod

March-April, 2011

[World Food Crisis Predicted for 2011- Creative Solutions Sought](#)

For nation shall rise against nation . . . and there shall be famines and troubles; these are the beginnings of sorrows. —Mark 13:8

War, earthquakes, flooding, and other natural and man-made disasters are taking their toll on the world food supply. Economists predict another food crisis in 2011, such as occurred in 2008. Some of the broader dangers were cited recently by Norman Borlaug, winner of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his development of wheat strains, essential for the famed Green Revolution. "You cannot have political stability based on empty stomachs and poverty," he warned. "When I see food lines in developing countries, I know that those governments are under pressure and are in danger of falling." Shortages or high prices of food have already contributed to the toppling of governments in Egypt and Tunisia, and a revolution in Libya. Others loom on the horizon.

The cost of food and fuel in the United States, Europe and developing nations around the world will lead to further unrest, and the poorest in the world will, again, suffer the most. The affluent will be more reluctant to share their wealth, hoping to preserve their own way of life.

Agencies, which work to provide food for those whose need is greatest, such as ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran World Relief, and Bread for the World, will struggle to obtain the financial resources necessary to continue their work. Local congregations, which operate food pantries and meal programs are seeking help to continue their own programs.

The question, "How will we respond?" begs for the answer: We must respond as God would have us do. "*As you have done for the least of these, you have done it unto me.*" (Matt. 25:40)

And congregations are finding new ways to respond. Some have increased the area of their gardens; some have begun canning and freezing the produce to preserve it for later use in food pantries and meal programs; others have initiated programs to teach families in poverty how to grow their own food and preserve it.

Job S. Ebenezer, PhD., President of Technology for the Poor, has been working with congregations in urban areas, teaching them to make vacant lots, unused areas in parking lots, and even roof tops, into vegetable gardens. He is available to churches and government bodies to help them begin new programs. Dr. Ebenezer, who resides in Westerville, OH can be contacted at technologyforthe poor@yahoo.com , or his website, www.technologyforthe poor.com.



Job S. Ebenezer

Now is the time to share knowledge and solutions. If your congregation has new ways to respond to the food crisis, send your ideas to struchses@sbcglobal.net. **Inspire others.**

[Shopping Online Raises Money for ELCA Hunger Appeal](#)

iGive is a free service to causes and members. Members of iGive can generate donations to their favorite cause by shopping at any of 800+ online stores, or by simply using the iSearch internet search engine. There are no costs, obligations, nor any hidden fees.

It's all automatic. No codes need to be entered and stores do not need to be notified when members shop via the special iGive links. Begin by starting at the iGive website, www.iGive.com and list the cause as ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Causes always receive 100% of the donation amount which is advertized on the website. Tracking enables iGive to identify the purchases of members with an ID number. Then one shops the same way as one would without starting at iGive.

iGive began in 1997 and through word of mouth has grown to over 300,000 members supporting over 50,000 causes and charities, raising more than \$5,000,000. To learn more, go to www.iGive.com.

[Potlucks to End World Hunger](#)

Formerly called **A Month of Potlucks**, Pastor Mike Poole writes that the name change better reflects the mission of the program. He states, "We are not going to limit the Holy Spirit anymore. Potlucks to End World Hunger is now going to be a continuous, year long program, not just limited to one month a year." In 2010, about 150 congregations participated in the program and raised approximately \$30,000 for ELCA World Hunger. The goal this year is to have 365 potlucks, one for every day of the year. Visit the website, www.amonthofpotlucks.org (website name is still the same), to schedule a potluck and stay in touch with this ever-growing grass roots movement.

[ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants Awarded](#)

Thirteen organizations in the Southern Ohio Synod received a total of \$26,500 in grants. The organizations which received grants ranging from \$1500 to \$3000 are: Clintonville-Beechwold Resources Center; Community Kitchen, Inc; Faith Mission, Inc; Furniture Bank of Central Ohio; Good Works, Inc; Inter Parish Ministry; Jeremiah's Letter; Logan County Homeless Shelter; Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio, Inc; Meigs Cooperative Parish; Over-the-Rhine Community Housing; Southeast Ohio Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry; Young Women's Christian Association.

The deadline for 2012 ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants is May 8, 2011. If your organization has a ministry and would like to know more about the grant requirements and is considering applying for a grant, information is now available on the website www.elca.org, search domestic hunger grants. Applications are available on the website.

For more information, contact Ms. Johnnie Thompson, Administrative Staff for Poverty Ministries, ELCA – Church in Society, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101 or call her at: 800-638-3522 ext.2693.

[Malaria Campaign Continues](#)

The ELCA Malaria Campaign and efforts to reach the goal of receiving \$10 per baptized member in the Southern Ohio Synod are in full swing, but help is needed.

If your congregation has held an educational or fundraising event for malaria, please report it and send the monies to the synod as soon as possible. Also, Pastor Joene Herr requests photos from your malaria events. The Task Force is planning to assemble an Honor Roll of Participating Congregations for the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly in May, and would like to include the photos of your events. Please send them to joeneherr@yahoo.com as soon as possible. Include a brief article or explanation.

Malaria Worship Weekend is scheduled for April 30/May 1, the first Sunday after Easter, and after the World Malaria Day of April 25. The SOS Malaria Task Force will provide the worship materials. If this weekend will not work for your congregation, please select one that will work, and use the materials provided.

It is important that as many people as possible are informed about the disease, and the fact that it is preventable and treatable. Everyone should also know that money raised is used to provide education, treated mosquito nets, medicine and medical facilities to those nations where the disease is rampant, suppressing economic recovery and stability. If resources, or speakers, are needed for an event contact Pastor Herr.

The SOS-Lutheran Malaria t-shirts are still available and now cost only \$5. Task Force members around the synod have supplies on hand. These well-made t-shirts come in sizes from youth small to adult 3X in the colors orange and yellow. The shirts have the "vintage" logo designed by David Drumm. Buy them for summer camp, mission trips, or special malaria fundraising events planned for this spring. The order blank can be downloaded from the synod website under Ministries>Malaria Campaign or contact Pastor Joene Herr to order.

[Congregations in Action](#)

[Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Cincinnati](#)

Pastor Henry Zorn reports how his congregation developed a successful malaria campaign.

Introduction to the ELCA Malaria Campaign During Lent 2010 the ELCA five-minute video was shown and the congregation was engaged in the aspects of education and awareness. The ELCA appeal was explained and that the congregation would have a malaria emphasis in the fall. Members were invited to be part of the Malaria Task Force. Some were very interested in this ministry and willing to serve.

Planning the Malaria Appeal The Task Force began meeting in July to plan the appeal. Planning the emphasis was very simple and only required two meetings. A timetable to introduce the appeal that was coming was established, creative ways to educate and collect funds were brainstormed, and resources available from the ELCA and the synod were reviewed. Components of the appeal were identified. A member volunteered to build an African hut for the Narthex with a baby lying behind a mosquito net. This became the focal point for the appeal. The hut was about eight feet tall and eight feet in diameter. A member family that was born in Cameroon was recruited for the Task Force. Both the husband and wife had been stricken with malaria multiple times. Their witness put a very personal touch on the impact of the disease and the pain and suffering that comes from it. They also loaned the pastor one of their African robes, which he wore for worship on the emphasis weekend.

September 11/12 weekend A personal letter from the Malaria Task Force was placed in all members mailboxes. The letter included: an explanation of the ELCA appeal, why it was important to give to the appeal and a request to meet the goal of \$10 per baptized member, and an overview of what the ministry would entail. An ELCA malaria offering envelope was attached to the letter.

September 18/19 weekend The African hut was placed in the Narthex. The ELCA malaria DVD was played on a continuous loop next to the hut. Synodical malaria t-shirts were sold. The ELCA malaria bulletin insert was included in worship folders. The family from Cameroon gave a temple talk in worship. After worship, the wife asked if she could say something. She gave a deeply personal appeal from the heart of a mother that clearly impacted all of our members that day! A synod malaria Bible study was used in the adult Sunday School class on this weekend.

September 25/26 weekend The ELCA color pamphlet and offering envelope were used as bulletin inserts. A member gave a malaria children's sermon. Malaria resources from the synod and ELCA were used for children's Sunday

School curriculum. The worship liturgy included a malaria litany. The Pastor's sermon applying Jesus' teaching from Matthew 25 was on the subject of malaria.

The malaria emphasis was brief and simple to organize. The congregation was very touched and engaged in the effort. It gave the congregation an opportunity to feel good about the mission of the church and members are still talking about malaria months later.

Abiding Christ, Fairborn

Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, Fairborn, held a "Hoops for Nets" event on Sunday afternoon, March 6. Participants raised over \$1300 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign in a variety of ways.



Even the youngest are able to contribute

Youth from 2 to 92 shot baskets after garnering pledges of contributions. Older 'youth' played "horse" in a "pastor's shootoff." The ELCA video on the malaria campaign was shown, and a nurse from the congregation described the disease of malaria, and its effect on victims, from a medical perspective. Besides direct financial donations, participants bid in a silent auction for various sports memorabilia and other donated items, including a basketball signed by the 2011 Wright State Raiders team and coaches.

Informational materials were available, as were snacks. Malaria Campaign t-shirts were sold, and the crowd was led in traditional cheers: "2-4-6-8, what will we eradicate? MALARIA!"

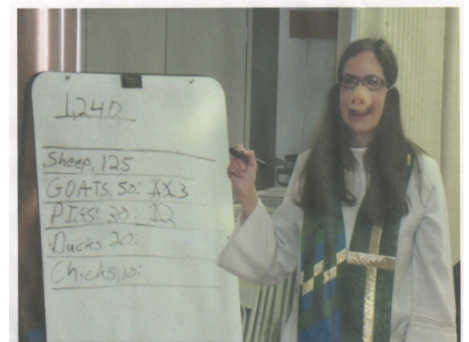
Preparations were laid in publicity the previous month, and in morning worship the worth of a bednet was demonstrated when it turned back the wily "Mo Squito" from harming an innocent sleeper. Local TV channel 2 WDTN of Dayton filmed activities and interviews for their newscast. Everyone had a great time, much was learned, and a goodly sum was collected. People, especially children, will be helped.

Zion, West Jefferson

In December, 2010, Zion decided the Advent Project would be contributing to the ELCA World Hunger Global Barnyard. Every week during Advent, the bulletin included a story from the ELCA barnyard website about how a goat, sheep or other animal could change lives and invited members to give. After all the proceeds came in, the congregation held a Barnyard Party. Voters, using animal sounds, decided what animals they wanted to send.

On January 30, after worship, members and friends gathered with a wild assortment of stuffed cows, goats, pigs, sheep, chicks and ducks and voted for their favorite animal (by making the sound of the animal), which they wanted to send to help people who were in extreme poverty.

As a result, over \$1,200 was collected, and "sound" voting sent 7 maa's (goats), 7 oinks, 3 baa's, 20 quack quacks, and 110 cheep cheep's, to help people get out, and stay out of poverty .



Pastor Denise Edwards counts animal votes at Barnyard Party.

Zion, Hamilton

Youth leaders Julia and Joe Sears share that the 8th-12th grade LYO "TRUTH" group leads a "Bonus Sunday" on the 5th Sunday of each month, which occurs once every quarter of the year. TRUTH promotes ministries and request special offerings. Last October, the focus was for the local food pantry; the request was to bring in canned goods. On January 30, the focus was the Nickels for Nets program to fight malaria.

St. Johns, Grove City

Each confirmation student 'owns' a ministry as part of the catechism. Karl, an 8th grader, took on the malaria ministry last August. He began by writing and sending a letter to the congregation, with his pastor's support and co-signature. Then he formed a team of four 8th graders, two adults and a 4th grader.

Karl created a tri-fold board, using materials from the SOS website and the ELCA.org/malaria website. He wrote a brief presentation and with his team visited the various Sunday School classes and small groups at St. Johns, talking about malaria and challenging each group to raise money to buy nets. Karl's ministry continues through July 31. Please keep Karl and all youth and adults active in the malaria campaign in prayer.

Gethsemane, Columbus

Judy Kulikowski reports about the Cleaning Trailer, a portable shower/washer and dryer trailer built by her husband Dave and Paul Seibert a few years ago. Over a summer, on weekends and evenings the two men built a four stall shower trailer, with a washer and dryer, which travels, as needed, to sites of devastation. The trailer was built with funding from Thrivent and is managed by Mary Woodward of Ohio Lutheran Disaster Response. Most recently, the Cleaning Trailer traveled to Mississippi, to help during the Gulf cleanup.

Planning Ahead

April 16- Bread for the World Offering of Letter Workshop, Abiding Christ, Fairborn.

The workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Larry Hollar, Regional Organizer for Bread, will present information on proposed legislation to reform the foreign aid structures for more efficiency and effectiveness, with focus on reducing poverty. Attendees will be prepared to share the Offering of letters to churches, campuses, and communities which want to be part of the solution. Call 937.227.9450 or 800.619.9239 for more information. RSVP now at www.bread.org/events or email rferris@bread.org.

April 30-May 1 Malaria Worship Weekend, Hopefully, All SOS Congregations

Plan worship and related activities around the Malaria Campaign to conquer this disease worldwide. Materials provided by the Synod's Malaria Task Force. For information, contact Pastor Joene Herr at joeneherr@yahoo.com.

April, May Make plans to become a Summertime Feeding Site for hungry school age children



Hunger Task Force Members Rev. Henry Zorn, Chair; Rev. Glen Bengson; Terry Bruns; David Drumm; Rev. Jonathan Eilert; Rev. Ruth Fortis; Rev. Joene Herr; Hilde Hildebrandt; Rev. Katrina Kerrigan; Lora Jollis; Rev. Mike Poole; Liz Senft; Rev. Ken Severa; Rev. Monte Stevens; Kathleen Zwanziger; Rev. William McKee, staff; Susan Truchses, newsletter editor

Going for the Slam Dunk to beat malaria

ELCA Begins Response to Pacific Earthquake, Tsunami

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is responding to a massive earthquake and tsunami March 11 that caused considerable loss of life and property in Japan. The earthquake was centered near the city of Sendai, a city in north-central Japan with a population of 1 million.

According to media reports, hundreds of people have died and hundreds more are missing. Tsunami waves as high as seven feet struck Hawaii, but there were no reports of significant damage there.

The ELCA has 22 missionaries serving in Japan, working in partnership with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Many of the ELCA's missionaries in Japan have communicated that they are safe, said the Rev. Y. Franklin Ishida, ELCA program director for Asia-Pacific Continental Desk.

Ishida, who is attending a conference in Malaysia, said in an e-mail he was seated next to the Rev. Sumiyuki Watanabe, president of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, when news of the earthquake and tsunami reached them. He said Watanabe's "first concern was for Sendai Lutheran Church," but there was no immediate communication because of power and cell phone outages in the area.

According to Ishida, the ELCA has missionaries serving at a Christian seminary in Tokyo, and pastors serving a Lutheran congregation in Tokyo. ELCA missionaries serve on the southern island of Kyushu, providing chaplaincy and parish services, as well as teaching at Kyushu Lutheran College.

The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church operates schools and other programs that provide English language instruction as part of the church's ministry. There are 10 ELCA missionaries serving in the local church's "J3" program, to teach English and to serve in local congregations, Ishida said. "J3" references the program's three-year commitment.

He said five of the J3s were in Tokyo when the earthquake and tsunami struck.

"Within the first hour we heard requests for prayer from our partner churches. If you'd like to stand with them through your financial support, I would encourage you to give through ELCA Disaster Response. Gifts designated to the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami fund will be used entirely -- 100 percent -- in response to this disaster," said the Rev. Daniel Rift, director for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal.

Financial gifts for the [Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami](#) can be contributed through the ELCA website. Credit card gifts may be contributed by calling 1-800-638-3522. Gifts designated for the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami can also be sent to: Southern Ohio Synod, 300 South 2nd Street, Columbus, OH 43215.