



Pastor Daniel Rift

Congregation Connections

is designed to help you link ELCA World Hunger to worship and congregational life from Advent 2009 to Easter 2010. All lectionary references are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary.

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Dear friends,

“You have brought us hope... You have saved our lives.”

These words were spoken by a nurse in Zimbabwe to the ELCA.

In December of 2008, the people of Zimbabwe were in crisis. Crops failed, cholera took hold, and there was a shortage of medicine and medical supplies. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger made it possible for immediate response—providing food, medicine, and seeds for planting. Now, almost a year later, the tiny seeds have transformed into a bountiful harvest. There is enough to eat and enough seed left over for the next harvest. In addition the people and the community are left stronger should another crisis occur.

This is *your* work. You have prayed. You have given generously. You have helped build awareness and a growing commitment to fight hunger and poverty in your congregation and community. I pray that you sense the presence of the risen Christ when you bring help and hope around the world.

Now I ask your perseverance in goodness. Over the past year, the number of people who are hungry has increased dramatically. You and your congregation can make the difference. You can help meet immediate needs and bring change that leaves people and communities stronger. You can continue to be the hope, to save lives. This year, we’ve seen more congregational gifts to ELCA World Hunger than ever before. But in our challenging times, these gifts are smaller. The world needs your help now more than ever.

As you review the following pages, you will find many ideas to help raise funds and awareness for ELCA World Hunger. I invite your congregation to join us in bringing hope to the millions more who are going hungry.

I am glad to be your partner in this endeavor. Thank you for your faithful leadership.

With gratitude,

Pastor Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

P.S. Visit www.elca.org/hunger/zimbabwe to view and download a short video about the life-saving work of ELCA World Hunger in Zimbabwe that you can share with your congregation.