

From the Pastor

May 2019

A Message from Rev. Kurt Landerholm



"Jesus said 'bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you'." (Luke 6:28)

One of our most used, and sometimes overused phrases is "God bless you!" This phrase has power when we are speaking God's blessings over people. But it can become a mechanism used to disengage in the lives of others. It is much easier to say, "God bless you" than it is to actually be a blessing to others. We also need to enter into the struggles of others with the blessing of our lives.

The origin of the following statement is unclear, but there is power in the phrase, "Give a Man a Fish, and You Feed Him for a Day. Teach a Man To Fish, and You Feed Him for a Lifetime."

We want and should bless those who struggle in need, and certainly one of those ways is through feeding programs. We should give fish to those who hunger. But we should also be looking for ways to teach people how to catch fish so that they won't be hungry for the rest of their lives.

815 million people, accounting for 11 percent of the world's population, suffer from hunger, according to a report published by the United Nations. The need is great and we are called to bless those who hunger with food that will sustain them. That's the ministry of giving a fish.

While the news is sobering, the good news is that in two decades the percentage has dropped from 23 to 11 percent. The trajectory to eliminate world hunger has improved over the past 20 years, and if continued, world hunger could end by 2030. The focus on solutions has reduced the number of those who go to bed hungry each night. The world is being taught to fish!

Rise Against Hunger is focused on four main solutions. To end hunger by nourishing lives, empowering communities, providing emergency relief and growing the movement to end hunger. Last year, Mentor UMC contributed 20,000 meals in the Rise Against Hunger Program, part of the more than 1 million meals sent out to nourish, empower communities, provide relief, and partner with organizations that teach how to fish.

Once again, Mentor United Methodist Church is doing something about it on May 18 as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to package 30,000 Meals! That's a 50% increase.

What it will take:

- Friday Setup from 5:30 - 7:00 PM with several able-bodied volunteers
- Saturday, participate in a 5K run/walk fundraiser
- Saturday food packaging with 2 shifts of 55 - 65 people each
 - o First shift will be from 8:00 - 10:00 AM
 - o The second shift from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM.
 - o The third shift to clean-up from 12:30 - 1:30 PM
- Raise \$9,907.52 (less than 30¢ a meal)

We have taken a step of faith that we can do it! The contract has been signed. This is a great opportunity to live into Jesus' command to feed the hungry and empower the hungry to feed themselves. To help, sign up through the church app, stop by the Information Hub on April 28 or May 5, use the link <https://sforce.co/2U7QV8u>, or go to the church website, www.mentorumc.org, to use the link. Support the program by your church contributions marked, "Rise Against Hunger."

Pastor Kurt