



Chocolate, Snacks, and Hunger

I was sitting at my desk, staring at a blank computer screen, wondering what to write for this month's hunger article. As I absentmindedly reached for the bowl of chocolate on my desk, a light flashed on in my head. Here I was, warm and dry, with freezing rain outside, and able to eat my fill of chocolate and the other snacks that I have on my desk.



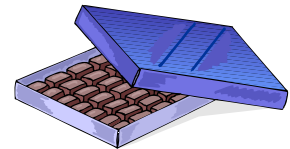
How blessed I am!

But there are those in this world that are cold and hungry, who can't snack on chocolate or anything else. Even meager life-sustaining food is hard for them to get. Throughout the world there are refugees from war, people with no jobs, injustice that keeps poverty alive, no safe drinking water, and seemingly no hope.

Yet here we are, warm and dry, chocolate to snack on, in our plentiful, relatively wealthy nation, while millions have never even tasted Dove chocolate, let alone have adequate life-sustaining food.

Yes, God has generously blessed most of us living in northeastern Pennsylvania. How do we respond? Do we respond with pride for what we have done? Do we say, "What I have, what I have been able to do is because *I* earned it"? Or do we give credit to God? The scriptures remind us that all we are and all we have is a blessing from God.

Let us give credit and thanks to God by acknowledging why we are able to snack on chocolate. Let us give thanks to God that we have food to eat – much more than we need, really.



One way we can thank God for the gifts God has given us *and* help to take care of the poor as Jesus asked is by contributing \$1.50 per week to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Even that small amount – pocket change for us – can help provide food to people who do not have enough to eat to maintain life.



Here's another idea: Every time you snack, drop some of your change into an ELCA World Hunger Appeal offering box. Boxes are available free through Augsburg Fortress (item # 9786000220044, 25 per package). Give one to each member of your congregation so that they may offer thanks by giving to those less fortunate.

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