

*Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Hunger Education, ELCA World Hunger*

*What are your initial thoughts on this conversation? What surprised you? What was most memorable to you?*

- ▶ *How much do you know about the work of ELCA World Hunger? They are active around the world and here in the United States, and take a long-term approach to equipping people to address root causes of hunger for lasting solutions in addition to providing immediate aid.*
- ▶ *Ryan speaks of a widely shared experience vulnerability, even among people who typically do not experience this. Have you experienced a sense of vulnerability in this wilderness - in terms of your health, economic situation, feeling of being in control, or in another part of your life?*
- ▶ *World Hunger had invested significantly in ministries that gather people together because building relationships helps fight hunger. These kinds of ministries became the ones impacted most by current concerns. What ways that you live out your faith have been most impacted by the need to practice social distancing and the like? What adaptations that you have observed can be of value going forward? What changes are you eager to be done with?*
- ▶ *Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. What would have been the problem with Jesus, hungry from weeks of fasting, doing this? What temptation/trial have you faced lately?*
- ▶ *Ryan talks about what we fall back on when we realize we can't rely on ourselves. What else do you fall back on when you realize you can't rely solely on yourself?*
- ▶ *As Christians, we can fall back on the promise that God is with us. How has God been with you recently?*
- ▶ *Ryan says, "We don't have to be held back by this notion that the church is plagued by inertia." In what ways has disruption to your routine helped you break into something positive?*
- ▶ *Ryan discusses discernment as remaining open to the ways God is revealing God's self to us. Where do you look most often for God to reveal God's self? Where has God revealed God's self recently where you weren't expecting it?*
- ▶ *"The wilderness is not a place to go to escape the world. It's a place where we are prepared for deeper engagement with the world." Where and how might you see yourself more deeply engaged in the world for the sake of your faith?*
- ▶ *Ryan points out this time has made us think about what parts of who we are that we can't place on pause. What have the past months made you feel you "can't put on pause" because it's part of who you are?*
- ▶ *For both the Israelites in the Exodus and for Jesus before he begins his ministry, crossing the river meant crossing from wilderness to where God needed them next. What is "the river" for you - what do you need to cross that will mark being out of the wilderness and into God's future for you?*

