

## St. Leo Social Justice Page

### Food Justice Update:

Legislation Update: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in the state has been approved by the Senate for full funding \$93.25 Million. This operational budget item now must go to the House and then hopefully signed by the Governor. We are very hopeful that this financial support will be fully actualized, supporting our state's food safety net so critical to so many in need. A BIG thank you for all the people who reached out to their representatives in Olympia asking support for our food assistance programs as well as to all who participated in Hunger Action Day in Olympia!!!

Our work for **Food Justice** is just beginning. There will be challenges ahead for the *St. Leo Food Connection Food Bank* and other food providers as the real threat of cuts in the U.S. Department of Agriculture loom large! **But in every crisis, my faith tells me there are opportunities as well.** We will begin to discover opportunities to boost the leadership capacity of the Food Bank, grow our networking in the community and with fellow food providers, the food industry & growers.

It is important for us to bring in additional voices and skills in the important work of providing food for those in need, create community and care for Creation. It is time to shake off the pessimism and doubt and to work together to rebuild not only our community-focus-foodbank but a hopeful vision for ALL!

Please support the St. Leo Food Bank – Food Connection. Let's turn a crisis into an opportunity to be **GOOD NEWS** to those in need and Mother Earth!!!

Rick  
Keeper of Bees

### We are in the Season of Lent: The Face of Jesus

Please join us for the **Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin with a simple soup supper at 5pm in Bix Hall, then at 7pm prayerfully gather in the Church for prayer and thoughtful reflection on the passion of Christ in fearless motion towards Love and forgiveness.

For more information, please read the flier in this parish bulletin, check our website or just contact Rick at the Parish Office.

### L'Honey & Youth Garden:

We are making progress with are garden and our bees! This month our 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders seeded greenhouse trays of vegetables and flowers for our garden and the flower beds of the poetry plaza. We also received the 5 grape plants; They are a red table grape named - Niabell. The grape is also good for making nice church wine! We will be planting the grape plants on April 6<sup>th</sup> and our seedlings on May4th!

Our honeybees are slowing moving into the spring season, their build up is slow but I hope it will be steady. My hope is that we will conduct our spring honey harvest at the end of April.