

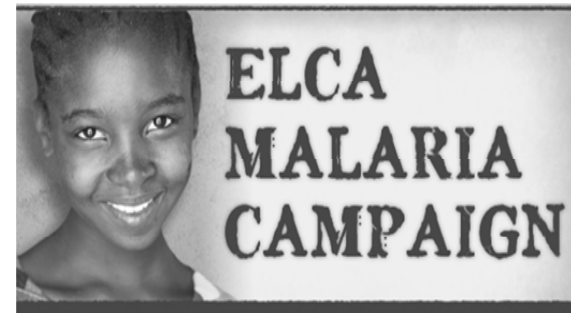
www.elca.org/malaria

World Malaria Day is April 25, 2012. In the ELCA, we're challenging members to turn World Malaria Day into "World Malaria Week" and raise \$200,000 between April 25 and May 1 (including your congregational offerings on April 29) to launch work in Liberia – where malaria accounts for 30 percent of all deaths seen in hospitals. Find more details in an [email](#) sent to all congregations. Our sisters and brothers in Liberia are ready. Will you help?

EASTER NETS

*Devotions for the Easter
Season*

*Coming together for Malaria
Education, Treatment, and
Prevention*



Developed by

the Allegheny Synod Global Mission Team for our Synod's congregations

April 15 – Second Sunday of Easter

READ – Acts 4:32-35

REFLECT – In our first lesson we hear that the group of first disciples lived in such a way that everything was shared between them and there was not a needy person among them. What they had was distributed as each had need.

CONSIDER – How much did you spend on Easter candy this year? How about on Easter gifts?

DID YOU KNOW ... that malaria is the second-leading cause of death from infectious diseases in Africa, after HIV and AIDS, and the fifth-leading cause of death from infectious diseases worldwide? There are more than 200 million cases of malaria diagnosed each year, and of those infected nearly three-quarter million people die.

INVITATION – The amount of money we spend on ‘extra’ things also has the potential to save lives from an easily-preventable but life-threatening disease. \$50 provides medication for 25 malaria patients. (Americans as a whole spent 1.6 BILLION on Easter candy last year.) What about sharing – as the original disciples did – with those who need our help? Is a person’s life worth what we spent on Easter extras? Consider taking aside the amount you spent on Easter and putting it toward pesticide-treated malaria nets needed for children to safely sleep under to prevent getting infected by malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

PRAYER – Ever-loving God, you’ve showed us your love through your Son’s death on a Cross and His resurrection. May we follow in the footsteps of the early church be open to, aware of and share with those in need both young and old. AMEN.

May 20 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

READ – John 17:6-19

REFLECT – Jesus prays for his disciples saying, “As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

CONSIDER – How has someone who taught you (to read or do math, to know about God, to do a skill or craft) made a difference in your life and made you who you are today? How would your life be different if they had not taken the time to teach you?

DID YOU KNOW ... Education about malaria is important too. One mother said, “My three-year-old child had malaria but I didn’t know quickly enough.” Eventually she sought treatment for him, but it was too late. “There was nothing the doctor could do for him.” Malaria awareness is essential; many people don’t know how to protect themselves or the importance of timely treatment, but through gifts which provide for videos, radio messages, and community outreach, simple but life-saving messages are getting out.

INVITATION – \$100 trains a village health team to bring malaria education to their villages. We have been given an invitation by Jesus to live the way he did, to be sent into the world with good news that in God there is life and healing. Is it worth it to Jesus that our gifts are shared so that others might have life?

PRAYER – Protector God, as you sent Jesus into the world, so send me into the world to bring your word and deeds to your creation. Send teachers to those in need so that they might live in your protection. Protect those most vulnerable with your knowledge and strength, in the name of Jesus our savior and protector. AMEN.

May 13 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

READ – John 15:9-17

REFLECT – Jesus tells his disciples, “this is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you...and I appointed you to go and bear good fruit.”

CONSIDER – Even though the cost of our healthcare is high, how easy is it for you to get to a place of treatment if you needed it? How much you be willing to pay if you knew that it meant you could avoid going to get medical treatment in the first place?

DID YOU KNOW ... The cost of medical care - particularly for those many families who live in remote areas - is a large burden. Not only is the cost of actual testing and medicine an obstacle, but also many families simply don't have the money for transportation to distant medical centers. Families who use mosquito nets, however, are able to be more able to be self-sustaining. Mike Lulunga, who lives in Malawi, says, “The money which could have been used for medical bills [to treat malaria] is now used for other things. It helps me and my family save money.”

INVITATION – We spend a bunch on preventive ‘medicine’ like vitamins, zinc to ward off colds, anti-bacterial soaps and wipes to help us not get sick. Consider matching what you have spent on these items in the last month, to buy nets so that someone in Africa can avoid getting sick from malaria.

PRAYER – Loving God, you sent your son Jesus to love and care for your creation. We are your friends and as friends we care for our sisters and brothers wherever they might be. Give us the will to help those whom we do not know to live their lives in good health. AMEN.

April 22 – Third Sunday of Easter

READ – Luke 24:36b-48

REFLECT – In the scripture, Jesus appears to the disciples, and then asks them, “Why are you afraid?” They had plenty of reason to be scared – who had ever seen someone raised from the dead before? And yet, Christ reassures them by his presence and calls the disciples to be witnesses.

CONSIDER – Have you ever been worried for a child when they were sick? Have you had to endure the heartache of loving a child whose illness was life-threatening?

DID YOU KNOW ... that every *45 SECONDS* a child dies from malaria? Parents, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, have reason to be afraid because young children (especially infants) and pregnant women are among the most susceptible to dying from the disease. Of children's deaths in Africa, malaria is number one. Many children do not make it to their fifth birthday.

INVITATION – Think about how much better you feel when the medicine you give a child helps break a fever and they start to feel better. Is the money you would spend on your own child or grandchild worth the life of someone else's child or grandchild? Consider taking the amount you would spend on a bottle of children's medicine and putting it toward life-giving malaria treatment medicine to save the life of a child or pregnant mother, so that they don't have to be afraid, but know the loving presence of Christ.

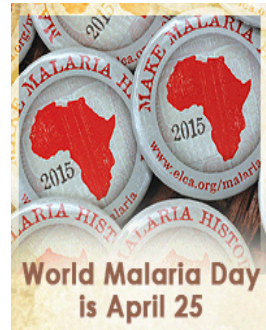
PRAYER – God of life, empower us through the gifts you've given us to reach out and comfort those who because of malaria, are in fear for the life of their children or their own. Let us not doubt the work you can do through our gifts. Let this world not fear death as we walk with you. In the name of Risen Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

April 29 – Fourth Sunday of Easter, ELCA’s “World Malaria Week”

READ – 1 John 3:16-24 (not the gospel of John – the letter, first John...)

REFLECT – In the scripture, the author challenges us with a question – “How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods, and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? ...let us love...in truth and action.”

CONSIDER – A malaria net (along with education on how to use it) only costs \$10. What have you spent \$10 on this week? Coffee at Starbucks or lunch at McDonalds? Lottery tickets? Movie rentals or songs on I-tunes?



DID YOU KNOW ... Someone doing an interview with women from Mali asked, ‘have you ever gotten malaria?’ The group giggled as they responded, ‘you should ask us how many times we’ve had it, not whether we’ve had it at all!’ But long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets help to change that. Nets retain their properties for up to five years, and are an effective malaria-prevention tool. But when nets are combined with indoor residual spraying with approved pesticide, the numbers and life spans of mosquitoes are reduced, meaning all members of a community are more protected, whether or not they are personally using a bed net.

INVITATION – We can spend \$10 with hardly thinking about it. Can we who have so much of the world’s goods, be aware of our brothers and sisters who are at risk of a preventable disease, refuse to help? Consider how many \$10 you spent on ‘unnecessary’ things (things you don’t need to stay alive) this week, and set the same aside for purchasing malaria nets, so that we can share God’s love in truth and action.

PRAYER – Gracious God, provider of all. You have blessed this world with more than enough, and at times, we get distracted by the material

possessions that we claim as ours only to lose sight of our sisters and brothers who yearn for a drink of clean water or the hope of relief from malaria. On this day, be with those in Liberia as we reach out to them with your hope. Help us to open our eyes and hands to those both near and far. AMEN

May 6 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

READ – 1 John 4:7-12

REFLECT – The author of first John reminds us, “Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.”

CONSIDER – It’s May, and we’re starting to get our gardens ready. How much do you anticipate spending on watering your plants or grass this summer?

DID YOU KNOW ...standing water breeds mosquitoes, and while to us they are just a nuisance, in many parts of the world the mosquitoes breeding in puddles of water carry a life-threatening disease, and a sickness that causes adults to lose about 12 million dollars’ worth of lost productivity at work and children to lose productivity at school.

INVITATION – Out of love for another, think about matching what you might spend on watering your yard with a gift toward education and water-purifying tablets that prevent mosquitoes from breeding and spreading the disease. Isn’t your gift worth preventing transmission of malaria in the first place ultimately saves money (and needless suffering) in the long run?

PRAYER – Loving God, you have called us to love one another. You’ve showed us your love for us through your Son’s life, death and resurrection. May we be empowered by your Holy Spirit to grow our love for others as we share the bounty of your harvest with those whose lives are parched by this disease. AMEN.